



## Realities of the **Refugee Highway**

**THE LARGEST POPULATION** of migrants and refugees since World War II currently travels along a refugee highway that extends into Europe. Out of the more than 60 million forcibly displaced people in the world, Turkey currently hosts over 2 million, making it the largest refugee host country in the world.

A typical refugee family traveling to Europe encounters destruction, imprisonment, starvation, and death. They travel through Turkey, eventually arriving in Greece traumatized yet focused on moving on to the next country. Dreaming of opportunities and new beginnings, they press on. Authorities shuffle families between camps, sometimes sending them back to Turkey.



The majority of refugees traveling through Turkey to Greece and on to Europe is from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran and includes Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Yezidis, Afghans, and Persians. With no immediate solution in sight, the refugee crisis is likely to continue growing. This situation presents Christian workers and the Central Asian church with an incredible opportunity to proclaim the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ to people groups that have historically had little to no access to the gospel.



intentional about reaching their lost family, friends, and neighbors.

**9 ARMENIAN PEOPLE OF ARMENIA.** Thank the Father for sending so many laborers to the field to work in camps this past summer! Pray for workers as they seek to stay connected with all those He put across their paths over the summer.

**10 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray that God will strengthen and encourage workers and national believers who are overwhelmed with the daunting task of ministry to refugees and are experiencing burnout.

**11 DEAF PEOPLES.** Praise God that the translation of seven Bible stories into Mexican Sign Language was recently completed! Deaf Mexican believers can now use these stories to share Christ with others. Pray that God's Word will go forth and change many hearts.

**12 BANGALORE HOSPITAL, KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA.** This past July, 120 individuals attended a one-day retreat at the hospital. Many made decisions to follow Jesus! Pray for the ongoing follow-up of these new believers and of those who are still considering a commitment to Christ.

**13 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray that local believers in refugee host countries will look with compassion on refugees. Pray that churches will reach out to refugees they find living around them. Pray that God will replace fear with empathy and boldness.

**14 FUTA TORO FULANI OF WEST AFRICA.** Many Futa Toro Fulani people have listened to the New Testament, heard chronological Bible stories, or watched a film. Pray that God's Word will come back to them this month and that they will truly ponder and seek its meaning.

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*Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the  
nations, I will be exalted in the  
earth! (Psalm 46:10, ESV)*

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**1 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for men and women living in refugee camps where living conditions are poor, food is scarce, and spirits are low. Many refugees are dealing with deep depression. Pray that God will sustain and protect them. Pray that they will encounter the gospel.

**2 MBUNDA OF WESTERN ZAMBIA.** The Mbunda are leaders in many churches in the Western Province of Zambia. Pray that God will use them to continue growing His kingdom and also to reach other people groups around them.

**3 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for the many in East Asia who are trapped in some form of slavery—forced labor, forced marriage, or even sex trafficking. Others are bound by tradition, expectations, or the desire to please. Pray that they will find freedom in Christ.

**4 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray that God will protect and deliver Central Asian believers who are being persecuted in refugee camps. Pray that He will grow them in faith and obedience, giving

them the boldness to proclaim Christ to others.

**5 JEWISH DIASPORA WORLDWIDE.** A Jewish Argentinian man found a booklet that proclaimed Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. As he read, he discovered his Messiah. Praise God that this man is now a baptized believer in Jesus! Pray that he will share with others.

**6 NU OF COLOMBIA.** In two Nu communities, an absence of elderly leadership is negatively impacting church growth. Culturally, the Nu do not acknowledge young men as leaders. Ask God to break through this cultural barrier so that the Nu church can be led by their own Nu leaders.

**7 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for the gospel to go out through believers who are working among refugee populations. Pray that God will open hearts and give faith to Central Asian refugees who are hearing—many for the first time—the truth about a Savior who died to reconcile sinners to God.

**8 PEOPLES OF THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS OF LAOS.** Persecution comes often to those in the northern villages who choose to follow Jesus. Pray that these Lao believers will be bold and

**15 PEOPLE OF RICHLANDS, EAST ASIA.** Lift up a local couple who are working as church planters among a remote minority group. Pray that they will find "people of peace" (Luke 10:6) in their new area.

**16 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray that God will accomplish good from the evils of war. Pray that entire communities of refugees will find salvation in the gospel.

**17 GURAGE OF ETHIOPIA.** Praise God that training times are leading to fruit! Recently, some new followers were baptized and new house groups were formed. Pray that the new followers will grow in faith and service.

**18 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS OF COLOMBIA.** Two indigenous communities in northwestern Colombia are experiencing a malaria epidemic and virus outbreak. Pray that God will bring healing and that nonbelievers will experience God's love through the ministries of Christians in the area.

**19 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for refugees in Turkey who are struggling to make ends meet. Many find illegal jobs where they receive low wages. Teenagers sometimes work in poor conditions at textile factories.

**20 ISAAN OF THAILAND.** Grandpa Sam\* and his wife recently took a huge leap of faith and got rid of their family's idols. Since then, they have been plagued with illness and financial problems. Ask God to protect and provide for them, and pray that they will stay firm in their faith.

**21 MALTESE OF MALTA.** The Maltese islands are filled with beautiful church buildings and statues of Mary and Jesus. But less than .01 percent of the people know Jesus as their personal Savior.

Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this island nation.

**22 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for refugee widows with children. Many of these women have never worked outside the home and now find themselves in a new country with no marketable skills.

**23 DEAF PEOPLES.** Five Deaf students recently completed their training and graduated from the Deaf Theological Center. Pray for these five graduates and their spouses as they make plans to impact their world for Christ.

**24 DECCANI MUSLIMS OF INDIA.** Segments of the Muslim community in the Deccan have been training their members to resist followers of Jesus. Pray that the gospel will go forth despite this overt obstacle. Ask God to help Deccani believers remain faithful in times of pressure.

**25 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray that God will provide the resources Christian workers need as they try to help refugees rebuild their lives and community.

**26 PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.** You prayed for the city of Pretoria in last month's PrayerPoints. A new team will be going into the

city, where they will enter new fields with the gospel. Ask God to guide them to those whom He has prepared.

**27 MOUNTAIN RIVER XYZ OF EAST ASIA.** Pray for "4G Church," asking the Father to raise up a leader for them. Pray that they will grow in love, purity, faithfulness, and holiness.

**28 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** God is moving unreached nations across borders. Pray that the body of Christ will not waste the window that God has given them to reach out in word and deed to refugees around them.

**29 KABYLE BERBERS OF ALGERIA AND FRANCE.** For over two years, a believer has tried to help Ali\* understand who Jesus is, but Ali always reverts back to his superstitions. Ask God to cause these seeds to grow, and pray that Ali will follow Jesus.

**30 ISOLATED PEOPLE GROUPS OF THE AMAZON.** Approximately 20 people groups live deep in the Amazon rainforest with no known believers among them. They live off the land, traveling often in search of food. Pray for the salvation of these people groups.



## The open door

**SAD AND OVERWHELMED**, Fatima\* came to the refugee center week after week, looking for food and conversation with fellow refugees. Believers at the refugee center prayed for her in the name of Jesus and shared the hope of the gospel with her. Every week she left just as she had come—hopeless and hardened.

One day as Fatima waited outside the refugee center for the doors to open, she saw a light. There was a shadow in front of her, and she heard a voice, "My daughter, My daughter, the door is open for you. Come." She replied, "The door is closed." Again the voice called to her, "I am the Son of God, Jesus. The door is open for you, My daughter. I am the Door."

When she told an Iranian believer about the encounter and was shown those very words in the Bible, she tucked the Bible into her pocket, overjoyed that her vision of Jesus was written in the Holy Book. Trusting in Jesus as her Savior, she proclaimed, "Jesus is alive!"



Representative photo: Central Asian refugee children

Over time, he was thrilled to hear Jamal say, "I've been inviting friends and relatives ... and I've been telling them about what I've been learning. And they say, 'We want it, too.'"

After months of regular study, Husna and two other women expressed their faith in Christ. Shortly after that, four men also made a group decision to follow Jesus.

Some of the women testify, "The war turned out for good. ... We say, 'Rejoice!' because through that, we were saved."

## We say rejoice

**DAVE BRANSON\* FELT** he and his wife Carol\* had come to a dead end in their Central Asian ministry. Yet, trusting God, they pursued faithfulness and waited. And one day, three refugee children showed up at their community center.

Carol started to meet with the children's mother, Husna.\* Eventually, they began to study Scripture together. "I wanted them to know that they are precious," Carol said about Husna and her family. "We love you, and Jesus loves you."

Dave began meeting with Husna's husband, Jamal.\*

*\*Names changed*

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