

Sharing life **with refugees**

THEY WERE ONCE productive members of society. Now they sat in cubicles, bored, waiting for the system to process their papers. A man and his wife came one day, carrying buckets of paint and brushes. Finally—something to do!

The refugees painted walls with scenes of the homelands they missed. Syrian families drew pictures depicting blood and war. They worked for hours, asking for photos to be taken beside their artwork.

Another day, a group of men arrived, bringing donated bicycles and tools to fix the broken ones. Children played on them. Adults rode them to the station to catch a train to the language classes they so desperately needed to integrate into society and get jobs.

Other groups who knew the heart languages of the refugees came to listen to their stories of life in war-torn countries and the dangerous journeys they had taken to land in Europe. Buckets of paint, bikes, and listening ears were used by God to provide opportunities to share life with refugees and to tell the news of hope and peace that comes through Jesus Christ.



Film, conversations lead to salvation

WHILE VISITING REFUGEES in a European country, two believers had many opportunities to share their faith in Christ. In a two-week period, they extended conversations beyond casual greetings with two families of 10 to 12 people. They met with them multiple times around meals and cups of tea or coffee.

On the last visit, the couple sat in a tent packed full of people to view a film in Arabic about Jesus. During the showing, the group was so silent that one could have heard a pin drop. When the

scene turned to Christ being beaten and subsequently nailed on the cross, some turned their faces away from the screen and others' eyes filled with tears.

Once the film concluded, conversation began again as the Christians spent more time talking with the family members, this time about the film. That day, new believers walked out of that tent! Since then, they have learned more about their new faith and have asked for baptism. Pray that they will be baptized soon.

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.
(Psalm 119:114, ESV)

1 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Refugees crowd into camps, wait along borders, or rent temporary houses. Aid workers intersect with them for only a short moment in time. Pray that those who come to minister in the name of Christ will meet refugees who seek life-changing conversations.

2 PEDI OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Most Pedi pastors are bi-vocational. Pastor Tim* is principal of the high school in the village of Sealane, where he pastors Rock of Ages Baptist Church. Pray for his leadership in the church and community. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of the Pedi people.

3 KOBE, JAPAN. Mr. Hata* is a quadriplegic and is unable to speak. Using headgear, he paints Christian words in order to share the gospel with Japanese indirectly. His work was recently on display at a local museum. Pray that God will touch many hearts through Mr. Hata's artistic gifts.

4 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Rama* experienced a most difficult day as she spent Syrian Mother's Day in a European camp,

watching a tearful video sent by her five daughters who are still at home. Many have sacrificed much to live freely. Pray that they will find freedom through the True Sacrifice.

5 PASHTUNS OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Frank* grew up in a Muslim family, but says that he isn't very religious anymore because he is disgusted that Muslims kill other Muslims just because they are with another sect. Pray for Frank to come to true faith so he can impact his friends and family.

6 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Bosnia-Herzegovina is home to three distinct ethnic groups. The Bosniaks are Muslim, the Serbs are Serbian Orthodox, and the Croats are Roman Catholic. Ask God to raise up "people of peace" (Luke 10:6) in each ethnic group who will open doors for the gospel to be shared.

7 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Zaina* escaped from her war-torn Syrian village with her family. Disillusioned with her belief system due to the brutality she had seen, she was drawn to the peaceful stories of Jesus. She gave her heart to the Prince of Peace. Pray for Zaina as she studies His Word.

8 CENTRAL THAI OF THAILAND.

In a city where the Central Thai Team has worked very hard but seen little fruit, Mr. W is the first adult to believe. Praise God for this new life, and pray that Mr. W will have

a hunger and thirst to know the Lord more. Pray for a church to be planted in his city.

9 MUSLIM SINDHIS OF PAKISTAN.

Pray for Sindhis in Pakistan who are originally from African descent. They are often marginalized in this culture, but their hearts are soft to the gospel. Pray for house churches to be started, and ask that believers will share the gospel boldly with their friends and family.

10 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

The children enjoy telling stories, teaching their favorite hand games to visitors and using the English words they know. Some even help with the distribution of goods. Pray they will feel safe in their environment and will hear Good News from those who visit them.

11 PA OF COLOMBIA. A year ago, the Pa People Team began using soccer clubs to teach soccer skills along with values like honesty and teamwork. Recently, a soccer club was started in a new area. Pray that God will open doors and that the telling of gospel stories will bear much fruit.

12 DEAF PEOPLES. In Southeast Asia, workers Kate* and Lauren* went to a picnic with friends from the Deaf Association. They met many Deaf and built stronger relationships with them. Pray that the relationships will



A refugee camp in Jordan



A majority of Syrian refugees are women and children

provide opportunities to share God's stories. Pray that those who hear the stories will respond in faith.

13 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Syrian refugee Rawaan* gave her heart to Jesus. She prayed with sisters in Christ that God would mend her separated marriage. Just hours later, her husband came home, hoping for reconciliation. Smiling, she said, "Jesus hears my prayers." Thank God for answered prayers.

14 LAST FRONTIER. Pray for workers as they offer music and Bible classes as a way to reach a Last Frontier people group. The classes have to be done discreetly, because local authorities aren't friendly toward the work. Pray for God's guidance, wisdom, and protection for the workers and attendees.

15 NAMIBIA. Many Namibians are experiencing personal difficulties: family, finances, health, drought, and employment. More than ever before, the peoples of Namibia are open to hearing the gospel. Pray for more laborers for the harvest, and ask God to prepare many hearts to receive salvation.

16 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Pray for the people of Germany, Switzerland, and other nations who "count it all joy" as they help refugees, making a life-changing impact on their lives. They demonstrate that God shows no partiality towards persons and that He offers salvation to everyone. Pray that all will hear.

17 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for Christians in East Asia to remain strong in the face of

changing governments and stricter governmental controls. Ask God to remind them that He is greater and that He will be with them as they face opposition, persecution, and even death.

18 SORANI AND BEHDINI KURDS OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Pray that Kurdish believers will be firmly rooted in the Word and will continue to disciple those whom they lead to Christ. Pray that strong churches with firm foundations will take hold in the midst of persecution from family and community.

19 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Fleeing from Syria, Stephen* moved his family to a neighboring country. While receiving food and aid from believers, they were told The Story. Stephen's heart began to soften. He and his family now believe. Pray for this family as they lead a small group in their home.



Refugees come to Europe seeking better lives

20 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.

Bluegrass music, rugby, Frisbee® golf, and fencing—Baptist representatives in France and Belgium meet people where they are in hopes of building relationships that will allow the Good News to be shared. Pray for them as they "do life" and share with those they encounter.

21 ISAAN OF THAILAND. Praise the Lord for maturing believers in three house church groups. Pray that Isaan believers will choose to set aside time with the Lord each day, be in Bible study consistently, apply God's Word to their daily lives, and resist the evil one's attempts to distract them.

22 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Many in refugee camps hold on to their dignity, taking only what they absolutely need. Others are greedy and take more than their share. Pray for the logistics of attempting to meet the needs of thousands of traumatized people. Pray that all will have enough to survive.

23 BANGALORE HOSPITAL, KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA.

Pray for the community health outreach in a large urban slum in Bangalore that serves more than 1,000 patients per month. Pray for physical and spiritual needs to be met. Ask the Lord to provide land and a building to replace the rented house being used now.

24 NU OF COLOMBIA.

National missionaries John* and Lia* are planning to record Bible stories to help reach the Nu people. Nu believers will be recorded as they tell the stories in their heart language. Pray that these recordings will result in many changed hearts as they reach the people.

25 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Sarah*, a Syrian believer, fled from her city to a nearby country. She met local believers and partnered with them to write a Good News-centered educational curriculum for children living in the camps. Pray for Sarah and others as they joyfully share wherever they are.

26 DEAF PEOPLES.

Workers Hannah* and Paul* recently met a Deaf “talibe” boy. In West Africa, “talibe” boys are given to “marabouts” by their families so they can receive an Islamic education, but many of these boys are forced to beg on the streets and often suffer abuse. Pray for changes that will reduce their suffering.



A refugee family fends off the cold

27 LAST FRONTIER.

Some workers among a Last Frontier people group have potentially effective partners to help them, but the gathering and training of these partners is complicated and dangerous. Pray that God will make a way through the obstacles so that the gospel can go forth.

28 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Mariam* and her family fled to a nearby country, and then to Europe after their city was invaded. They became believers on the journey, sharing with others despite being ridiculed for their faith. Pray that they will stand firm and see a harvest of new believers.

29 ZERMA OF NIGER.

Pray for Moses*, David*, and Ivan* from “T Village” as they meet together for fellowship and to listen to God’s Word. Pray that they will be faithful and obedient to the Scriptures and be strong witnesses to their friends and neighbors.

30 WESTERN HIGHLANDERS OF EAST ASIA.

There is a lack of trust between Highlanders even after they have chosen to follow Jesus

and, therefore, a resistance to meeting together for Bible study, prayer, baptism, and fellowship. Pray that Highlander believers will begin to trust their brothers and sisters.

It began with a dream

AT THE AGE of 7, Benjamin* began having dreams about Jesus, who appeared to him and told him that He was the true Way. As a member of an entirely Muslim family in the Levant, Benjamin questioned these dreams and began his quest for truth. Should he follow the teachings of Muhammad or of Jesus?

At 14, Benjamin had another dream in which Jesus touched his head. He then decided that Jesus truly is “the Way”. At 21, after struggles with more questions and doubt, he finally put his faith in Christ. The ensuing persecution from friends and the community around him caused Benjamin to begin a journey to find freedom and a place where he could worship Jesus without fear.

After traveling through Turkey and Greece, Benjamin successfully arrived in another Western European country where he now lives in a bunker, waiting for his asylum application to be processed. Ask for asylum to be granted and for his family to worship Jesus in spirit and in truth.

**Names changed*

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