

# Refugee Ministry 101

How Diomass Congregations Can Respond to the  
Current and On-going  
Refugee Crisis in the World

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# Presentation Highlights

- ◆ A Brief History of Refugees in Our World
- ◆ A Brief History of Refugees in the US
- ◆ Biblical Foundations of Refugee Ministry
- ◆ A Christian response to the Current Refugee Crisis- What You Can Do
- ◆ Resources you need to start the process





Who is a “refugee”?



“Refugee” is a legal term defined as:

“...owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

The Geneva Refugee Convention of 1951



# Definitions

- ◆ **Refugee:** A person who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin or nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Accepted as having refugee status by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission on Refugees) prior to resettling.
- ◆ **Asylum Seeker:** similar to a refugee except they submit their applications while in the US or at a US port of entry; they may then be granted refugee status.
- ◆ **Migrant:** The term for any person who crosses a border for any reason.
- ◆ **Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** A person who is displaced by conflict or violence within the borders of their own country.





# History's Largest Refugee Movements



- ◆ Israelites:
- ◆ Huguenots:
- ◆ Ottoman Empire:
- ◆ Russia:
- ◆ WWI: Belgium, Serbia, Armenia
- ◆ WWII: by the end of this war, more than 40 million refugees in Europe



- ◆ Palestine: 1948
- ◆ Uganda: 1972
- ◆ Afghanistan: 1979
- ◆ Bosnia: 1992
- ◆ Rwanda: 1994
- ◆ Sudan: 2003
- ◆ Iraq: 2003



# SYRIA

12 million Syrians forced to  
leave their homes





# 12 Million Syrians on the move

- ◆ 7.6 internally displaced
- ◆ 5 million have fled to nearby countries:  
Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt,  
Kuwait, the European Union
- ◆ Only 1,682 Syrian Refugees in the US



# Today

- ◆ Approximately 15.4 million refugees in the world
- ◆ The United States is the world's top resettlement country for refugees
- ◆ The Obama Administration has proposed to accept 10,000 Syrian Refugees for the current fiscal year.



# Refugee Resettlement in the United States

“The United States is proud of its history of welcoming immigrants and refugees. The U.S. refugee resettlement program reflects the United States’ highest values and aspirations to compassion, generosity and leadership.”

– US State Department Website



“Those who make it here to the U.S. are truly the lucky few. While we accept more refugees than all other nations combined, it amounts to less than 1 percent of the world’s estimated 15 million refugees.”

Source: [wgbhnews.org](http://wgbhnews.org) Edgar B. Herwick III



2015			2014			2013		
Country	Number	Percent	Country	Number	Percent	Country	Number	Percent
Burma	18,386	26.3	Iraq Burma	19,769	28.2	Iraq	19,488	27.9
Iraq	12,676	18.1	Somalia Bhutan	14,598	20.9	Burma	16,299	23.3
Somalia	8,858	12.7	Dem.Rep.Congo Cuba	9,000	12.9	Bhutan	9,134	13.1
Dem.Rep.Congo	7,876	11.3	Iran Eritrea	8,434	12.1	Somalia	7,608	10.9
Bhutan	5,775	8.3	Sudan	4,540	6.5	Cuba	4,205	6.0
Iran	3,109	4.4	Afghanistan	4,062	5.8	Iran	2,578	3.7
Syria	1,682	2.4	All other countries, including unknown	2,846	4.1	Dem.Rep.Congo	2,563	3.7
Eritrea	1,596	2.3		1,488	2.1	Sudan	2,160	3.1
Sudan	1,578	2.3		1,388	1.9	Eritrea	1,824	2.6
Cuba	1,527	2.2		1,388	1.9	Ethiopia	765	1.1
All other countries, including unknown	6,870	9.8		1,388	1.9	All other countries, including unknown	3,302	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,933</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,926</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,926</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## **Who Do We Resettle?**

The United States will admit 85,000 refugees from around the world in Fiscal Year 2016:

- Roughly 34,000 will come from the Near East and South Asia (of which at least 10,000 will be from Syria);
- 25,000 from Africa;
- 13,000 from East Asia;
- 4,000 from Europe;
- 3,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean; and
- An unallocated reserve of 6,000 will provide the flexibility needed to respond to emergent situations.

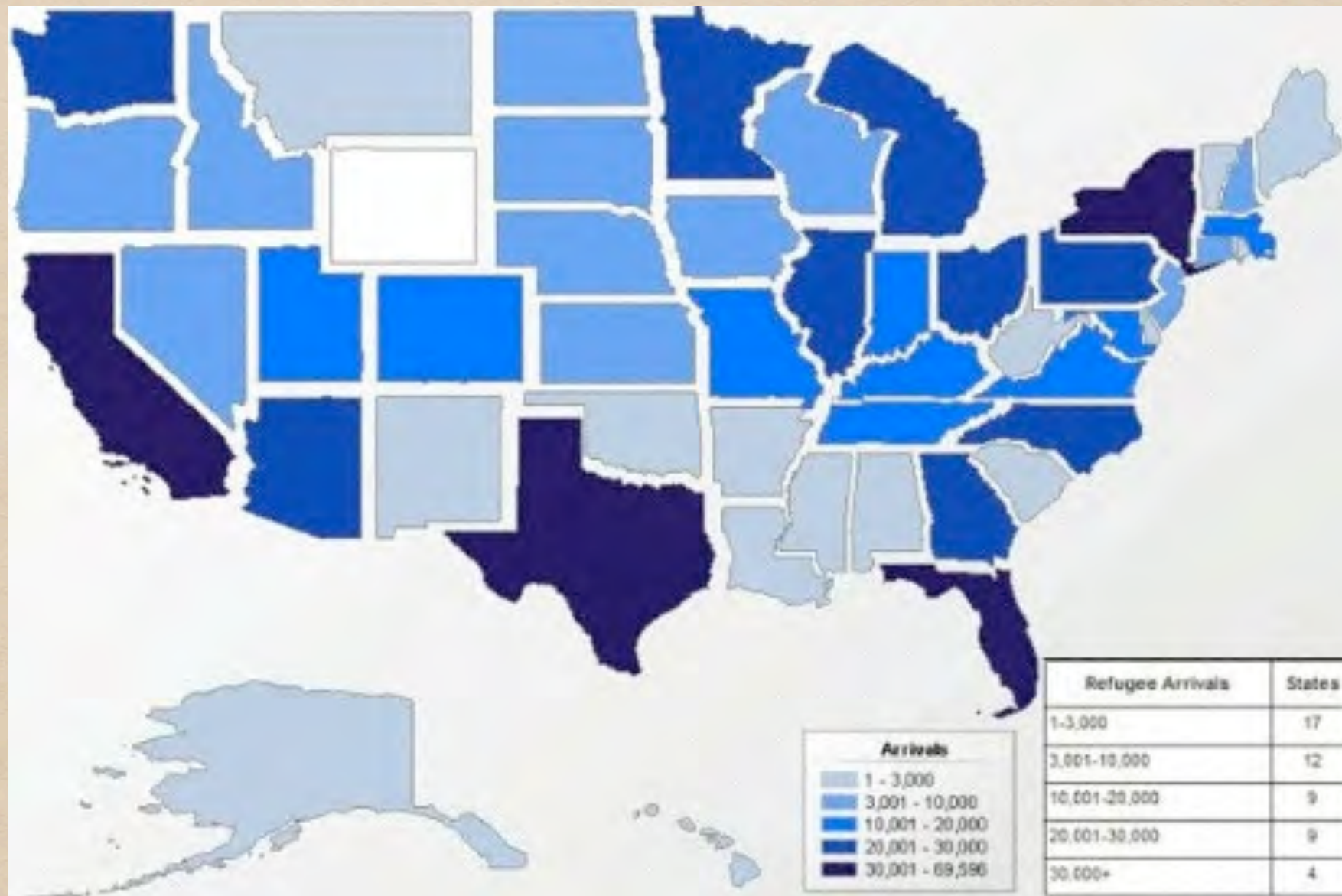


# ◆ Where in the U. S. A.? 2015

- ◆ TEXAS- 10%
- ◆ CALIFORNIA- 9%
- ◆ NEW YORK/ MICHIGAN- 6%
- ◆ PENNSYLVANIA- 5%
  
- ◆ Massachusetts is



# Refugees in the US





Refugees in  
Massachusetts



Nearly 90 percent of all refugees to Massachusetts end up in one of four communities:

- Lynn
- Worcester
- Lowell
- Greater Springfield





## Biblical Foundations of Refugee Ministry





# The Holy Family

Escaping to Egypt







# SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE

## ADVOCACY:

### *POLITICAL*

*Sample script: "I'm a constituent from [City] and I support the resettlement of Syrian refugees. I urge the Senator / Representative / Governor to represent me and other constituents who seek to welcome Syrian refugees. As an Episcopalian, my faith calls me to welcome the stranger. I am proud to live and work alongside refugees in my community every day."*

Congress AND Governor Baker



# Where to Donate?

## 1B) DONATIONS

### **THE EPISCOPAL LINK TO THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS:**

[www.episcopalmigrationministries.org](http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org): EMM is the refugee resettlement program of the Episcopal Church, and a living example of the Church's commitment to aid the stranger in our midst.

**United Thank Offering Advent Challenge: Journey from Gratitude to Hope**

<https://episcopalchurch.thankyou4caring.org/>

The Board of the United Thank Offering has presented a challenge to The Episcopal Church to support EMM. United Thank Offering will match the first \$30,000 given by December 31, 2015



## ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES ON THE GROUND

- NuDay Syria  
[www.NuDaySyria.net](http://www.NuDaySyria.net)
- Episcopal Relief and Development  
[www.episcopalreliefanddevelopment.org](http://www.episcopalreliefanddevelopment.org)
- Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem  
[www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org):
- American Friends of the Episcopal  
Diocese of Jerusalem  
[www.AFEDJ.org](http://www.AFEDJ.org)



# **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AS A MINISTRY and SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES WHEN THEY ARRIVE**

## **GETTING INVOLVED IN RESETTLEMENT:**

- PRAY
- TIME
- DURATION
- EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT
- INDIVIDUAL or CORPORATE
- SIZE OF GROUP
- VISION

These are real, vulnerable, people that you are talking about. You want to help, but be sure that you don't hurt!



# **PARTNERS in the RESETTLEMENT PROCESS**

- **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- **FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCIES**
- **FEDERAL SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS**
- **STATE of MA**
- **REFUGEE REFERRAL AGENCY (EMM)**
- **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCY**
- **YOU!**



# **PARTNERS in the RESETTLEMENT PROCESS (cont)**

## **The REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCY**

Several in MA

Responsible for:

- **Community education and orientation**
- **Cultural orientation to mainstream services**
- **Direct services to refugees:**
  - housing,
  - fuel assistance,
  - education,
  - day care for children, and
  - referral to mental health, medical and legal services.
- **Translation and Interpreting**
- **Youth Adjustment Services**



## **PARTNERS in the RESETTLEMENT PROCESS (cont)**

### **YOU or YOUR CONGREGATION:**

- Fundraising
- Collections/Drives
- Time
- Driving



# Resources:

handouts

websites

webinars- EMM

[www.episcopalmigrationministries.org](http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org)





“We welcome the stranger. We love our neighbor. The Episcopal Church has long been committed to resettling refugees in our own communities fleeing violence and persecution.

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry