

#Share the Journey Refugee Resource Toolkit:

Understanding the Role of the Church in Refugee Resettlement



Photo by Wendy Johnson, EMM

EPISCOPAL PRESIDING BISHOP STATEMENT ON REFUGEES

“To be called a refugee is not an insult; it is a badge of strength, courage, and victory.”

Tennessee Center for Refugees

The children of Abraham have ever been reminded to care for the widow and orphan and the sojourner in their midst, who were the refugees and homeless of the time. Jesus charged his followers to care for the least of these and proclaim the near presence of the Reign of God – in other words, feed the hungry, water the thirsty, house the homeless, heal the sick, and liberate the captives. We cannot ignore the massive human suffering in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, nor in Asia and the Americas.

We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, and our lives are bound up with theirs. The churchwide ministry of Episcopalians has included refugee resettlement since the refugee crisis of World War II. It continues today through the leadership of Episcopal Migration Ministries, and I urge your involvement, action, and support. Read about their work below, and share these opportunities with friends and co-workers. You will discover anew the power of good news in the face of the world’s tragedies.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-presiding-bishop-statement-refugees-congregational-and-individual>

In June 2015, the UNHCR reported that there are currently more than 60 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. Of the 60 million who are displaced, half are children. In just the past 4 years, more than 4 million Syrians have been forced to flee due to the civil war in their country and this number will continue to grow as the violence continues. This brings the worldwide total to nearly 20 million refugees, half of whom are children.

The United Nations has deemed this the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. While record numbers of people are being forced to flee, powerful images of refugees fleeing Syria are compelling the world to action.

This toolkit has been designed by Episcopal Migration Ministries associates and volunteers to aid the church in response to this immediate crisis.

“While every refugee’s story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage; the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives.”

António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2 HOW TO USE THE REFUGEE RESOURCE TOOLKIT

- Connect your parish to Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) and our nation’s and the world’s response to the current refugee crisis.
- Use the worship resources (scripture passages, reflection questions, hymns, prayers, litany, and videos) to plan a Refugee Sunday service or education hour, Sunday School classes for all ages, or a Wednesday night event highlighting refugee ministry.
- Include facts or stories about refugees in sermons and reflections.
- Conduct a donation drive for needed items or funds to help welcome a refugee family. Learn about ways to welcome and support refugees once they arrive in our communities. (Contact local affiliate or diocesan representative for information.)
- Learn using links provided in resources; and,
- Share information using social media resources.

“People come because they have no choice.... Being a refugee in Guinea or any other neighboring country of Sierra Leone is one of the most painful things that you can imagine anyone can go through. It demeans you, it reduces you to nothing. The only thing you hold on to is your faith perhaps and the determination to make it one way or another. Coming to America, of course, made all the difference.”

Mohamed, Former Refugee from Sierra Leone as seen in
EMM Video: Exhibiting Welcome: Creating a
Place for Refugees

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4 CONGREGATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE

Episcopal Migration Ministries

The Syrian Civil War and the record number of refugees forced to flee their countries, caused a humanitarian crisis that compelled the world to action. EMM asks congregations and individuals to respond in the following ways:

LEARN

Follow daily media articles and accounts chronicling the most recent events and statistics. For information clarifying important geopolitical issues and terminology go to these links:

<http://www.unhcr.org/emergency/5051e8cd6-55eed88dc.html> Syrian crisis
<http://www.unhcr.org/55df0e556.html> terminology

Discover Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) role in refugee resettlement and advocacy at www.episcopalmigrationministries.org and follow EMM on Facebook and Twitter.

ACT

In 2015, the United States welcomed 70,000 refugees to our country as new Americans and plans to increase that number to 85,000 in 2016 to include an additional 15,000 Syrian refugees. The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, through Episcopal Migration Ministries, works in partnership with its affiliate network, along with dioceses, faith communities and volunteers, to welcome refugees from conflict zones across the globe. Your local resettlement agency is always preparing for arriving families and in need of financial support, resources and volunteers. From donation drives, apartment setups, to mentoring refugees, there are ways to help. Contact an Episcopal Migration Ministries affiliate near you. Go to Episcopal Diocese of Texas website {www.epicenter.org/episcopalmigrationministries} for information or contact your nearest diocesan liaison for refugee ministry to learn how to help: The Rev. Sherry Williams, Austin or The Rev. Linda Shelton, Houston, Alyssa Stebbing, Share the Journey Pilgrim on 2015 EMM trip to Kenya and Advocate.

ADVOCATE

As a global leader in refugee resettlement, the US can and must do all that it can to welcome Syrians to the United States. Reach out to your Senators, Representatives, and the White House and ask them to support a robust refugee resettlement program and significant increase in Syrian resettlement.

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) has written a sample letter you may send to your members of Congress urging them to support increasing the number of refugees resettled by the US in 2016. You can find this letter on the EPPN action center. Join the Episcopal Public Policy Network to receive updates and policy action alerts to your inbox. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

AWARENESS

Follow Episcopal Migration Ministries on Facebook and Twitter. Share news articles and story online and through your social media networks. Generate discussions in your community about the issues refugees are facing.

Join the #RefugeesWelcome global social media campaign urging governments to welcome refugees to their countries.

If you are a teacher, use UNHCR's toolkit for teaching young people about migration and refugees.

If you are in a congregation, use this toolkit for sharing information, teaching and connecting our faith and resources to this crisis and opportunities to help. Encourage prayers and use the Prayer for Syria (link is external) as part of your Sunday or daily worship.

For additional information, contact Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. December 2014 Episcopal Migration Ministries www.episcopalmigrationministries.org

5 BACKGROUND ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS¹

October 15, 2015

Who is a refugee?

“**Refugee**” is a legal term used to define an individual who:

“...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.”²

Refugee status is conferred on those whose refugee claim has been definitively evaluated by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR). During situations that cause mass flight of people from conflict or violence, where it is generally evident why they fled, refugee status is conferred *prima facie*.

An asylum-seeker is an individual who has fled their home and has crossed a border seeking safety and protection. Asylum-seekers enter the Refugee Status Determination process and may be conferred refugee status once their asylum claim has been adjudicated by the UNHCR.

Refugees and asylum-seekers have fled their countries on account of persecution and because their home governments are unable or unwilling to protect them.

Refugees and asylum-seekers are distinct from other vulnerable migrant populations in that they have *crossed an international border* seeking protection. When individuals are displaced by conflict and violence within the boundaries of their home country, they are known as *internally displaced persons (IDPs)*.

The term ‘migrant’ encompasses all individuals who travel across borders, for any reason. But, importantly, migrants who do not fall into the categories of refugee or asylum-seeker are still able to seek the protections of their home governments. Refugees and asylum-seekers flee because their governments are unwilling or unable to protect them, and are, oftentimes, the source of a refugee or asylum-seeker’s persecution.

¹ Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. December 2014 Episcopal Migration Ministries www.episcopalmigrationministries.org

² 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b66c2aa10.pdf>

Current Refugee Crisis

In June 2015, the UNHCR reported that there are more than 60 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. Of the 60 million displaced, half are children.

The United Nations has deemed this the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. While the crisis in Syria has dominated the media, it is important to remember, hold in prayer, advocate for, and support refugees from conflict zones across the globe - as well as the countries that host them.

The largest refugee populations are from Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The largest internally displaced populations are found in Colombia, the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria. The top refugee-hosting countries include Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey, and Uganda (unhcr.org/54abe0e66.html). As the list demonstrates, developing countries bear the greatest burden in international humanitarian response to refugee crises. Western, developed nations host a minuscule percentage of the world's refugees. Many remain in refugee camps for decades before they are able to repatriate, integrate locally, or be resettled to a third country.

Durable solutions

After a refugee has fled persecution in his or her native country, there are three durable solutions that will allow the refugee to rebuild his or her life in peace and dignity:

- Voluntary repatriation to his/her home country;
- Local integration into the country of first asylum;
- Resettlement to a third country.

Resettlement is the third and last option for any refugee, when it is not possible for the refugee to return home or to integrate into the country which first offered asylum. Resettlement is a long and arduous process, an opportunity available to only a tiny fraction of refugees. In fact, less than one half of 1% of refugees will ever be resettled.

Resettlement countries

The United States is the international leader in refugee resettlement, resettling more than all other countries combined. The number of refugees that will be resettled to the United States is determined annually through what is called the “presidential determination,” a determination released by the president after conferencing with Congress, administration officials, and refugee/migration experts about admissions levels.³ In October 2015, the Obama administration announced an increase in the presidential determination for the next two years: 85,000 refugee arrivals for fiscal year 2016, and 100,000 refugee arrivals for fiscal year 2017.

³ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/30/presidential-memorandum-fy-2015-refugee-admissions>

With the United States, the following nations are also considered traditional resettlement states:

- Australia
- Sweden
- Norway
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Finland
- Denmark
- The Netherlands

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom established resettlement programs in the last decade, and more recently, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Romania and Uruguay have formally announced the establishment of resettlement programs.

The United States Resettlement Program

The U.S. resettlement program, known as the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), is an interagency effort involving many departments of the federal government, as well as domestic and international NGO's, including faith-based organizations. It is based in a strong model of public-private partnership.

The primary populations being resettled to the United States through the USRAP include Afghanis, Bhutanese, Burmese, Congolese (Democratic Republic of Congo), Cubans, Eritreans, and Ethiopians, Iranians, Iraqis, Somalis, and Sudanese. As of October 2015, fewer than 1,700 Syrians have been resettled to the United States.

Political pushback, misunderstandings, and misrepresentations of the program and of refugees continue to be an issue. Advocacy and support for refugee resettlement and for refugees has never been more important than it is now. To learn more about the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's ministry of advocacy, visit www.advocacy.episcopalchurch.org.

Domestically, nine resettlement or “voluntary” agencies work in this partnership with the federal government.⁴ The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society,⁵ working through Episcopal Migration Ministries, is one of these agencies.

⁴ These nine agencies are: Church World Service (CWS), Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), International Rescue Committee (IRC), US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and World Relief Corporation (WR).

⁵ The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society is the legal and canonical name under which The Episcopal Church is incorporated, conducts business, and carries out mission.

Episcopal Migration Ministries

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), the refugee resettlement service of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, is a living example of the Church's commitment to be a presence of hope, comfort, and welcome to refugees.

Each year, Episcopal Migration Ministries, through a network of 30 local organizations, provides a wide spectrum of services, including resettlement, employment, and intensive medical and mental health services, to more than 5,000 refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and Cuban/Haitian entrants.

These new Americans rely upon this assistance and support as they rebuild their lives in security and peace in communities across the United States. In addition to Episcopal Migration Ministries' collaboration with local partner organizations, EMM staff members equip, support, and empower dioceses, congregations, and individuals to learn about and find their own place in the welcoming ministry of refugee resettlement.

If you, your congregation, or diocese would like more information about Episcopal Migration Ministries' work and ways you can be involved, please contact Allison Duvall, manager for church relations and engagement, ataduvall@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6027.

Additional information, videos, and resources about the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's refugee resettlement work through Episcopal Migration Ministries may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/emm. A list of our resettlement partners may be found at <http://bit.ly/EMMpartners>.

"It's one thing to hear on the news about refugees in a distant land, and it is a whole another thing when somebody is sitting across from you telling you what their life was like before whatever conflict caused them to flee for their lives. When you have that personal interaction, there is no way you can walk away unchanged."

Deb Stein, EMM Director

EMM video: Engaging Mission, Engaging Hope

UNITED STATES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



For more information, please contact us. E-mail: case@cws-rschatriobi.org
 This poster was funded by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of State.



6 REFUGEE FACTS

- 80% of refugees are women and children, and in 2015, 50% were under the age of 18.
- Texas resettled more than 10% of all refugees in 2014 and 2015, making it the largest resettlement state in the US.
- For over 75 years, The Episcopal Church has welcomed and served vulnerable refugees from around the world who have been uprooted by persecution and violence.
- Episcopal Migration Ministries resettles refugees throughout 26 dioceses in the US through partnering with local affiliates such as Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and Refugee Services of Texas-Austin in the Diocese of Texas.
- Today, there are over 60million displaced persons in the world, the largest number since World War II
- In 2015, there are 19.5 million refugees (usually 12-15 million) compared to 16.7million at end of 2014.
- 4million are Syrian refugees and another 7.6 million Syrians are IDP in Syria
- 2016 goal for US resettlement is increased from 70,000 to add another 15,000 Syrians; goal for 2017 is hoped to be 100,000
- Top five countries sending refugees to US in 2015 were Burma, Iraq, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan



Photo by Wendy Johnson, EMM, Gihembe Refugee Camp, Rwanda

7 BEST PRACTICES FOR CONGREGATIONS ENGAGING IN RESETTLEMENT⁶

Refugee resettlement is local. It is relational. It is deeply personal. It is the story of individuals, families, and communities, of neighbors knowing one another, caring for one another, learning from one another's stories, experiences, strengths, and gifts. And, in knowing each other, growing in understanding and compassion.

For Episcopalians, the experience goes deeper still. It is a tangible, meaningful and powerful way of being in the world: a way of living out our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. Congregations often call Episcopal Migration Ministries and ask very good questions, not only about how they can be involved in welcoming a refugee family, but how to do this work well.

- “We want to make sure we’re helping and not working at cross purposes. How can we help you?”
- “What would be best for the clients, in the long run?”
- “How do we establish healthy and safe boundaries?”

As you and your congregation discern a call to participate in refugee resettlement ministry with Refugee Services of Texas in Austin or Interfaith Refugee Ministries for Greater Houston, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's resettlement partners in the Diocese of Texas, here are the top 10 “guiding lights” to illuminate your path:

1. Approach refugee resettlement work with a heart for collaboration and partnership. Refugee resettlement is best done in partnership – with national and local agencies, with interfaith and ecumenical partners, with new friends. What can you offer to this community-wide work of welcoming? How can your congregation be a supportive, contributing partner in this work?

2. Know your gifts and skills. As you approach refugee resettlement ministry, use this opportunity to discern the gifts of your community. It is important to be aware of the assets and strengths you can offer in this ministry. We recommend the Gifts Discernment Activities published by Episcopal Migration Ministries and the discernment processes described in *Called to Transformation*.

3. Engage in responsible mission. It is common in the non-profit sector for members of the wider community to want to support the work without first learning what would really be helpful, would make a difference, and what is truly needed. Before you volunteer in refugee resettlement ministry, meet with your local office. Prepare a list of questions to ask the volunteer coordinator or other staff. Examples:

- What needs does your organization have that could be potentially filled by a congregation?
- Can you list specific activities that are possible?
- We want to be sure that what we do helps you respond to needs—what is most helpful to you? What pitfalls should we avoid?
- How would you like us to maintain communication with you?

Compare your organizations needs to the gifts you have discerned. At the intersection of these is your call to mission.

⁶ Allison Duvall, Manager for Church Relations and Engagement for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society knows the importance of providing information and easy to follow steps to help congregations begin acting once they learn about the needs of refugees and local efforts to assist in their resettlement. [Use her piece as a how-to guide for forming your local refugee resettlement ministry team.](#)

4. Prepare to be transformed. As you engage this new ministry, prepare yourself for more than the work at hand. Prepare yourself for the spiritual path you are about to walk. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit will bring new friends, colleagues, partners, and teachers into this journey. You will meet refugees: individuals who often possess great resilience, strength, perseverance, and hope. You will also meet the agency's committed staff and new people in your community – English tutors, business owners who employ refugees, property managers who care for the homes refugees live in. Your work will give you an opportunity to listen to their stories and learn from their experiences. You will notice the passion, courage and dedication that is inherent in each experience, and you may find that it transforms your understanding of mission and service. Be sure and share your story, too. New Americans want to hear about life in the United States. It helps them understand what to expect and what it means to be a citizen.

5. Establish healthy boundaries. In any outreach activity, it is important to establish safe and healthy boundaries--around your work, your interactions, and your relationships with partners and those you support. When you join in this work, you become a partner in the journey to a new American's self-sufficiency. Work with the resettlement agency to discuss the best methods for supporting a family in achieving self-sufficiency. Oftentimes it is as simple as 1, 2, 3: "1. Demonstrate the new skill or activity. 2. Support the person as they practice the skill. 3. Observe the person as they use the skill independently." Avoid patterns of dependency; instead, empower new Americans to be independent and to navigate their new community on their own.

6. Know when to say, "no," or "not right now." When engaging in any outreach ministry, it is important to know your limitations. Avoid over-committing yourself. If you are working on a co-sponsorship team, make sure the group has thoroughly discussed each activity it agrees to engage in, with specific individuals deputized to lead in certain areas, with certain deadlines and expectations. Being mindful from the start about what you can do and what will give you joy will be a great blessing to all involved.

7. Be flexible, patient, and of good humor. Refugee resettlement is a busy world and, sometimes, plans change without advance notice. If your congregation is preparing to co-sponsor a family, for example, be prepared for a sudden change in their arrival date. Travel could be expedited or delayed due to any number of international factors. Be prepared for a quick turn-around on an apartment set up. This can happen if housing quickly becomes available or unavailable. Be prepared for your new American neighbors to be unaccustomed to American concepts of time, tardiness, and appointments. In essence, be prepared for some adventures – a little shifting and reorganizing, a little confusion, but a lot of love, laughter, and good memories.

8. Pray. Act. Reflect. Repeat. In refugee resettlement ministry, as in any other outreach ministry, it is important to nurture your spiritual life and your relationship with God. Consider developing a practice of prayer around your refugee resettlement work. As you approach the activity, invite the Holy Spirit into your work, your heart, and your interactions. When you leave your service or conclude a co-sponsorship, reflect on the experience. What went well? What could be improved? What would you like to learn to make the service more fulfilling, or higher quality for those you serve? After your reflection, listen for the Spirit's call. Are you called to this work again? How will you engage it in a new way?

9. Be an advocate. It is vital, spiritually and theologically, to remember the people behind the numbers – the families, the fear, heartache, grief, hope and yearning for safety and peace. When you read about the global refugee crisis, turn your heart to the human story behind the figures. Share your concern, your compassion, and your commitment to supporting refugee resettlement with local media and your municipal, state, and federal legislators. Share with them the story of those you have met and welcomed to your community as your neighbors.

10. Share your story; invite others to join you. Refugee resettlement is true community-building work, strengthening bonds of friendship and partnership throughout the community, making it a better place for all. Share your story with others about your work in refugee resettlement. There are misconceptions about the process and about refugees themselves. Speak your truth and respond to misunderstanding or fear with love and compassion. Invite others to join you in this work.

The Rev. Linda Shelton, Diocesan Liaison for Refugee Ministry, asked Dave Saxon of St. Alban's, Austin, about his church's experiences co-sponsoring or offering support to over 17 refugee families through partnering with local affiliate Refugee Services of Texas-Austin.

"And this ministry is so ingrained in the minds of all St. Alban's parishioners, furniture donations come all of the time from parishioners, friends of parishioners, and now friends of friends of parishioners. We are very blessed to help in this way. I feel personally called to this ministry, but sometimes it feels a little selfish. (Chuckling) Sometimes I worry that I'm getting more than my fair share of blessings. I'd like to invite everyone to participate.

LS: Actually, you have been a very strong encourager of other churches getting involved and a strong supporter of this ministry, telling of and sharing your stories and experiences. What would you like for churches and others considering supporting refugee ministry to know?

DS: My initial concern was we would get involved with a family and would have them for life... that we would be responsible for them. That is not the case My big message for others considering getting involved is just to do what you can; even if you can just furnish half of an apartment, do it. Come alongside RST (Refugee Services of Texas –Austin) and help. Anything you can provide means more money is available to the refugees' account. It is really very easy to help. We see the challenges in the world and first we feel so small, then we see that we can help. RST and the State Department do the heavy lifting getting the family to US and Austin, then we get to help. It really is a tremendous blessing "

8 SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

MATTHEW 2:13-15

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

Reflection:

Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt mirrors so much of the refugee story today that it is hard to pass this by without some acknowledgment that Jesus himself was a refugee. The current official definition of "refugee" is someone who "owing to a 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 to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Joseph acted quickly when the angel warned him of the imminent danger the young child was in and he took his family and departed for another country. Obviously, Egypt accepted the Holy Family inside its borders and it is assumed Jesus spent a good part of his childhood there.

Questions:

What would have happened to the Christian story had Egypt built a wall to keep out Jewish families fleeing Herod's intention to kill all boys two years and under? Do you think Joseph and Mary were the only parents to flee? How welcoming do you think the Egyptians were to these refugee families?

Meditation:

Sit quietly for 5 minutes and think of both Mary and Joseph gathering what they could before they left their home. Did they walk to Egypt? What did they take with them?

Prayer:

Merciful God, Jesus fulfilled his ministry on earth because another country took his family in when Mary and Joseph were told to flee in order to protect their child. Create in me a welcoming heart to receive others today in similar situations. Help us to understand how our action of receiving the stranger could have a blessed significance. In the name of Christ, who lived the life of a refugee. Amen.

9 SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

LUKE 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus, “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Reflection:

The commandment to “love the Lord God and to love your neighbor as yourself” is well known to us. Jesus’ parable expands the understanding of neighbor to include all persons who are vulnerable and in need of mercy (ourselves included); and, it goes on to explain that being a neighbor is to extend merciful care and assistance, despite the cost, whether financial, of time or to our own comfort or security. First, we must see others as our neighbors, then we must respond as a neighbor, acting in love as Christ not only taught, but acted for us in our need. Refugees are extremely vulnerable and lonely as they have been forced to leave everything behind when they flee their country for safe refuge.

Questions:

Who do we identify as our neighbors? Do we draw defining circles that include only those known or familiar to us? If we expand our vision of neighbor to include current residents who are unknown to us, as well as newly arriving refugees coming from faraway places, how might our vision of community also grow? Refugees have lost friends and families as well as their homes and communities when they are forced to flee their countries. What might they need when first arriving in the U.S. to make their homes? How might we welcome these strangers as our new neighbors?

Meditation: Think of your “neighborhood” — your home, your friends’ homes, businesses and schools, churches, parks and recreation areas-- and the people in them that make them special to you. What would you miss if they were taken from you? How might you share these blessings with others? Think of how we are called to be neighbors and how that might look in action.

Prayer:

Lord God, you made us in your loving image and sent your only Son to us in love. We ask that you would now help us to share that love with strangers, through welcoming refugees into our communities, sharing your abundance with them and extending your mercy to them. Open our eyes that we may see them as neighbors; open our hearts that we may be neighbors to them. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.



10 SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

EXODUS 12:37-39

Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock. They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

Reflection:

Even today, the images of mass exodus are sent to us live through television, social media, and video. Perhaps when we receive the bread at the Eucharist, that unleavened wafer in our hand or mouth, we can remember this sacred symbol originated from an entire people group taking flight in the middle of the night so they did not have time to let the bread rise. The leavened bread of Moses' people became the same symbol for the host of the body of Christ at the Eucharistic table thousands of years later.

Questions:

Do we make the connection to these images and the Exodus story we've heard so many times? What food would you grab for you and your family if you had to leave without delay? What are other symbols of our faith and what do they represent?

Meditation:

Make your own unleavened bread and in quiet reflection sit while it bakes and think of why bread is such a sacred religious symbol.

Prayer:

Oh God who brought us the bread of life, help us to remember the roots of our symbols and the struggle of those who have gone before us and whose stories we hear each week. Teach us to remember that people around the world still flee violence and are driven out of their countries without delay, unable to take what they need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

11 SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1 JOHN 3:16-18 (NRSV)

“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

Reflection:

As Christians we are given and called to follow Christ’s model of love and justice as we go about our daily lives, and as we are challenged by needs in our world. His self-sacrificial act of laying down his life for us reminds us that we are called to not only love others as our brothers and sisters, but to show that love in actions towards them, including sacrificial sharing of our blessings in practical ways with those who are in need. Refugees are forced to flee their homes and countries fearing persecution and must seek humanitarian assistance in a neighboring country offering refuge. Some eventually are resettled in the U.S. and arrive with almost nothing but their hope for a new country to call home.

Questions:

How might we follow Christ’s example of loving action as we reach out to refugees arriving for resettlement and in great need? How might we help them find food, furnish safe housing, learn English, navigate the city, enroll in school and find employment? Mother Teresa said, “The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.” Is the need for encouragement and welcome, for company on their journey, as great as the need for basic goods such as gently used donations of furnishings? Which might you find easier to provide?

Meditation:

Sit quietly for 5 minutes and think of the resources and opportunities you have to reach out in love each day to someone in need.

Prayer:

Loving God, you created us and call us to be your family. You have blessed us with abundant resources which we sometimes forget come from you. Soften our hearts and strengthen our commitment to care for one another as brothers and sisters, through our thoughts, words and our deeds; that we will be known as your own by our love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

12 ADDITIONAL BIBLE PASSAGES RELATING TO REFUGEE CONCERNS

What does the Bible say about refugees? God's people in Old Testament days carried out a tradition rich in generosity towards sojourners, strangers and aliens. A hospitality code is even stated in Leviticus, as an integral part of the world of the Lord to his people. We also find that Abraham and David were sojourners at some point in their lives--that Joseph and Ruth had to adjust to new cultures foreign to them--and that many of the Psalms reflect dire human needs for the refugee.

In the New Testament several related themes recur: For example, love for our Savior, love for our neighbor and trust in God's care. Refugee ministry involves all three of these, and more. Indeed, the Bible shows us that we choose to act in love and compassion because of who we are as Christians. God's word also shows us the source of strength and wisdom for every ministry we carry out in His name.

Genesis 12:1 Abraham becomes a sojourner.

Genesis 37:27-36 Joseph is sold into Egypt but learns to adjust to the new culture.

Exodus 23:9 "You shall not oppress a stranger, you know the heart of a stranger, for you were stranger in the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 19:15-18 "You shall do no injustice in judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."

Leviticus 19:33-34 "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love himself as yourself..."

Deuteronomy 8:18 "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth." (God is the source of what we have materially.)

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 "He executes justice for the fatherless, the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore; for you were sojourner in the land of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 26:12 The Israelites tithe to help the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless and the widow.

Joshua 20 The Israelites establish cities of refuge for those who need asylum.

Ruth: Ruth leaves Moab to join Naomi in Bethlehem and learns of another culture.

I Samuel 23-24 David hides in the wilderness (23:15) "because Saul has come out to seek his life." (Similarly, many refugees today flee from life-threatening situations.)

II Samuel 22:2-3 "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.

Job 31:32 "The sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the wayfarer."

Psalms 2:12 "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him."

Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalms 57:1 "Be merciful to me, O God, for in thee my soul takes refuge."

Psalms 61:1-3 "Heat my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to thee, when my heart is faint. Lead thou me to the rock that is higher than I; for thou art my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy."

Psalms 88:1-4 "O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee."

Psalms 146:9 "The Lord watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin."

Proverbs 24: 11-12 "Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Behold, we did not know this, does He who weighs the heart perceive it?"

Proverbs 31:8-9 "Open your mouth for the dumb, for the rights of all who are left desolate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, maintain the rights of the poor and needy."

Isaiah 1: 10 "...you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not remembered the rock of your refuge.

Isaiah 58: 6-9 "Is not this the fast I choose; to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?...to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?... Then shall your light break forth like the dawn..."

Isaiah 61: 1-3 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."

Zechariah 7: 9-10 "thus says the Lord of hosts, render true judgements, show kindness and mercy each to his brother, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor..."

Matthew 14: 13-21 Jesus takes loaves and two fish--and feeds more than five thousand people. (The pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mobile, Alabama, said, "Whenever we felt overwhelmed by the urgent needs of the refugees under our care, we have reminded each other of our Lord's promise: 'Give them what little you have and it will be enough)"

Matthew 25: 31-46 "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Luke 14: 13-14 "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you."

Acts 8:26-40 Philip shows concern for the spiritual needs of a foreigner.

2 Corinthians 8:12-14 "For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he has not. I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that...your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality."

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work."

13 PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUAL OR CONGREGATIONAL USE

EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES PRAYER FOR SYRIA

God our strength and our redeemer, we ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with the people of Syria, of all religious traditions and of none. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may hasten peace and bring an end to violence. Be with those who are in fear for their safety and their lives. Be with those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, and loved ones. Give them strength and courage. And be with us, as we listen and discern your call to us. Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for Syrians and all those displaced by war and violence. In your Holy name we pray, Amen.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRAYER FOR THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Heavenly Father, you are the source of all goodness, generosity and love. We thank you for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives. Help us now to open our arms in welcome, and reach out our hands in support. That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord, who fled persecution at His birth and at His last triumphed over death. Amen.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (BCP)

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD P.814

1. For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS THANKSGIVING FOR THE SOCIAL ORDER P.840

7. For the Diversity of Races and Cultures

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM V P390

“for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you , O Lord.”

14 "REFUGEE SUNDAY" WORSHIP RESOURCES *EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES*⁷

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

The United Nations General Assembly established June 20 as World Refugee Day to recognize and applaud the contribution of refugees throughout the world and to raise awareness about the growing refugee crisis.

For 75 years, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, through Episcopal Migration Ministries and its network of affiliate offices, has helped refugees find safety, security, and hope in the United States.

You can celebrate this World Refugee Day by joining Episcopalians across the country in prayer and celebration of the strength, resilience, and contributions of refugees in our communities.

- Witness refugee stories of survival and hope through our video series available here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm>.
- Advocate for refugee and immigration issues with your local elected leaders. Information available through the Episcopal Public Policy Network: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigrationandrefugee>
- #ShareTheJourney with refugees and supporters on social media, find out more here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sharethejourney>
- Volunteer for this life-saving ministry by working with one of our local partners. Our affiliate network map is available here: <http://bit.ly/1swkPif>.

Epiphany Resources

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/fr/node/198935>

http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/our_work/world_refugee_day_2015.aspx

2015 WORLD REFUGEE DAY WORSHIP MATERIALS BY #SHARETHEJOURNEY PILGRIMS

[Prayers of the People](#) by Alyssa Stebbing

[Sermon Notes](#) by the Rev. Canon Frank Logue

[Sermon Notes](#) by the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn

[Sermon Notes](#) by Spencer Cantrell

[Bulletin inserts](#) (English)

[Bulletin inserts](#) (Spanish)

⁷ <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/refugee-Sunday-woship-resources>.

PRAYERS AND COLLECTS

O God, our great strength, help us to fix our eyes on you, trusting in your mercy. Help us to look into the world and discover that you are there, our Immanuel. Strengthen us as we hold out open hearts and hands to the stranger, to the homeless, to the lonely, to the broken in mind and spirit. Stir us with your presence, your strength, to the homeless, to the lonely, to the broken in mind and spirit. Stir us with your presence, your strength, and your love. All this we ask in the name of your Son, our Lord, Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us members of your family--"children of God" and "heirs of heaven." Help us to extend the boundaries of our parish family to those who are without family, home and country. Stir us to make and live out our commitment to welcoming the stranger into our midst. Help us to love those welcomed, to share our lives and to witness to them of your love for all of us in the person of your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. In his name we ask this, Amen.

O God, we ask your living protection of all refugees yearning for freedom and hope in a new land. May we ever remember that the Holy Family, too, were refugees as they fled persecution. Bless, guide and lead us in faith to open doors and to open our hearts through this ministry of hospitality. Give us strength, vision and compassion as we work together to welcome those in need. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

(The following may be especially suitable for children.)

Dearest Jesus, thank you for making us all brothers and sisters in God's family. Help us to help our brothers and sisters who have no homes. Remind us to pray for them and give our gifts to help them. Amen.

Prayer for World Refugee Day

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity. Amen.

A LITANY FOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

Leader: Almighty God, we give thanks for all your goodness. We bless you for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and good people and for the hope of the life to come. Remind us ever to treasure in our heart all that our Lord has done for us. Enable us, O God, to show our thankfulness by lives that are wholly given to your service. Lord, in your mercy.

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us to look with compassion upon the people of this world who live with injustice, terror, hunger, disease and death as constant companions. Lord, in your mercy.

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As your Son came to earth not to be served, but to serve in love, stir us by this love to serve the homeless, to open hearts and hands to the stranger, the lonely, the broken in mind and spirit, who come to these shores from foreign lands. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Preserve our nation that, rejoicing in and recognizing your many blessings, we may offer peace, comfort and protection to the troubled, the weak and the wary. Lord, in your mercy.

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Preserve our nation that, rejoicing in and recognizing your many blessings, we may offer peace, comfort and protection to the troubled, the weak and the wary. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Above all, direct us to witness to and share your love and the eternal salvation purchased and won for all through the suffering, death and resurrection of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Cause us to recognize that we are all one family and grant us grace to show forth in our lives what we profess with our lips. Fill us with compassion for those in distress and take away the arrogance and lack of concern frequently in our hearts. Open our eyes to the many opportunities for giving help and instilling hope, and rouse us into loving action. Lord, in your mercy

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, we commend ourselves, one another and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Response: **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

By Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Director, Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands, Diocese of Texas

Each year on June 20, the international community recognizes World Refugee Day, calling awareness to the continued and devastating refugee crises around the globe. For us, for the Church, World Refugee Day calls forth something more: We remember that the stories of our tradition are stories of wandering, of flight, of forced migration. Our Holy Scriptures tell us of the sojourns of the people of God – of slavery and persecution, of wandering in the wilderness, of exile and loss.

Today, as we pray for the Church and for the world, we remember our own sacred stories and how they call us to live in God's world, to bring forth God's dream of peace.

With all our heart and all our mind, let us pray to our God, saying, "Lord, hear us."

Sovereign God, may we who are the Body of Christ, the Church, embrace and welcome the immigrant, the refugee, and all who seek shelter from any danger.

We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

God of protection, whose Son fled violence from his own home with Joseph and Mary and sought refuge in a foreign land, hear the cries of all who suffer because of hatred, war, violence, greed, and famine. Help us to peacefully mend our divisions that all you have created in this world may be whole.

We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

God Who makes us One, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world, that those who govern the people and have authority over them may consider each life to be of value and may serve the people of their nation with equity and fairness, dedicating themselves to peaceful resolution of conflict.

We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity.

We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

Loving God, there is no one that goes unnoticed in Your eyes. Take into Yourself all who suffer. May Christ the Wounded Healer relieve the pain of hunger of the refugee, heal the afflicted body, soothe the fears of the mind, bring peace to the soul, and be tender with the broken hearted, that those who have endured unspeakable trials may find themselves restored in Christ.

We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

Eternal God, may you receive those who have died during times of war and violence into your loving and peaceful arms and may they find rest for their souls. Comfort those who mourn the loss of their friends and loved ones and give them relief from the painful memories they bear, giving assurance of eternal life. We lift our prayer to You,

People: **Lord, hear us.**

Almighty and Loving God, you who have crossed the boundaries of Heaven and Earth to be with your people, visit those who must flee their homes because of violence and oppression and lead them to a land of safety.

We give thanks to you, Source of All Being, that you hear our intercessions on behalf of our refugee brothers and sisters. We thank you that love swallows fear, that in your compassion we learn to walk with those who suffer, that when we give of ourselves we receive far more, and that when we receive those who stand knocking at our doors, we receive Christ the Beloved One.

May all praise, glory and honor be to our God, the Most High. **Amen.**



15 HYMNS

The following hymns from The Hymnal 1982 are suggested and emphasize themes especially appropriate to resettlement ministry.

Hymn 9: Not here for high and holy things

Hymn 11: Awake, my soul, and with the sun

Hymn 71: Hark The glad sound The Savior comes

Hymn 293: I sing a song of the saints of God

Hymn 297: Descend, O Spirit, purging flame

Hymn 343: Shepherd of wounds, refresh and bless thy chosen pilgrim flock

Hymn 421: All glory be to God on high

Hymn 481: Rejoice, the Lord is King

Hymn 522: Glorious things of thee are spoken

Hymn 539: O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling

Hymn 602: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Hymn 609: Where cross the crowded ways of life

Hymn 610: Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need

Hymn 627: Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace our path when wont to stray

Hymn 705: As those of old their first fruits brought

17 CONNECTING TO OUR EPISCOPAL ROOTS⁸

The following foundational questions regarding our faith remind us how and why we are called to reach out to and minister to refugees:

Q. What are the commandments taught by Christ?

A. Christ taught us the Summary of the Law and gave us the New Commandment.

Q. What is the Summary of the Law?

A. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Q. What is the New Commandment?

A. The New Commandment is that we love one another as Christ loved us.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

The Ministry

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Baptismal Covenant⁹

Two vows or promises made at every baptism and renewal of baptisms:

- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? People: **I will, with God's help.**

⁸ The Catechism, Book of Common Prayer, pg. 845

⁹ The Baptismal Covenant, Book of Common Prayer, p. 305

18 ADDITIONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Consider using these or similar reflection questions to invite discussion after viewing videos, reading books or having a presentation on refugee ministry. Themes such as spiritual growth, empathy, faithful risk, hospitality, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, accompaniment, relationships, sharing the journey connect reflections to this ministry of welcome and compassionate inclusion.

1. Has your perception of refugees changed as a result of learning more about them? How?
2. What information surprised you about refugees? What surprises or intrigues you?
3. Do you feel called to assist a refugee in any way? What might you do to help?
4. If you have travelled to another country, especially a non-English speaking one, what challenged you initially? In what ways would you have appreciated assistance?
5. Have you ever felt unwelcome or excluded in your own community?
6. Have you ever lived in a foreign country? Have you ever moved far from family and friends? Was it your choice?
7. Have you ever felt unsafe and needed the assistance of others?
8. Have you ever had to rely on a stranger or the goodwill of others for a basic need?
9. Have you or someone close to you ever had to escape a dangerous situation?
10. Have you ever been without food or wondered where you might sleep?
11. Have you had unexpected crises in your life? Have they informed your spiritual journey?
12. How do you identify with pain or suffering of others?
13. Does the memory of 9/11 and the resulting climate of fear affect your willingness to offer hospitality to strangers in any way?"
14. Have you ever felt the sting of alienation, of being different, in your own city, neighborhood, or school? How does that inform your treatment of others?
15. As we learn about needs of refugees, what do we discover about ourselves? As we interact with other cultures, what do we discover about our own?

Houston is the number one destination for US refugee's resettlement and is home to 70,000 refugees from 78 different countries. Houston's diversity, strong economy, and increasingly international culture are in part a result of refugees who have brought new flavors and interests from their home countries.

19 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LOCAL DIOCESAN RESOURCES

Episcopal Diocese of Texas www.epicenter.org/migration

To learn more about EMM's partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and local affiliates in resettling refugees in our diocese, please contact::

The Rev. Linda Shelton, Deacon lshelton@palmerchurch.org
Diocesan Liaison for Refugee Resettlement, Houston

The Rev. Sherry Williams, Deacon sherry.v.williams@mac.com
Diocesan Liaison for Refugee Resettlement, Austin

Alyssa Stebbing, Share the Journey Pilgrim on 2015 EMM trip to Kenya and Advocate,
astebbing@trinitywoodlands.org

AFFILIATES

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston,
www.imgh.org 713-533-4900 3303 Main St. Houston, TX 77002

Refugee Services of Texas--Austin
www.rstx.org/austin (512) 472-9472 austin@rstx.org 500 East St. Johns Ave.,
Suite 1.280, Austin, TX 78752

AWARENESS

<http://www.unhcr.org/emergency/5051e8cd6-55eed88dc.html> (Syrian crisis)

<http://www.unhcr.org/55df0e556.html> (terminology)

Episcopal Migration Ministries <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm> or contact Allison Duvall,
Manager for Church Relations and Engagement, aduvall@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6027

Facebook and Twitter

#ShareTheJourney
#Refugees Welcome

Twitter @EMMRefugees

An Act of Faith brochure

http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/sites/www/Uploads/files/EMM_SPONS_Broch_PDF.pdf

About Episcopal Migration Ministries—fact sheet

http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/sites/www/Uploads/files/EMMResources.org%20Transfers/EMM_Fact-Sheet-3.pdf

ADVOCACY

<http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=130613>

Church Outreach

http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/sites/www/Uploads/Emm_ChurchOutreach.pdf

BOOKS:

- **What is the What**, by Dave Eggers
- **Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust**, by Imaculee Ilibagiza
- **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier**, Ismael Beah
- **The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience**, Mark Bixler
- **The Middle of Everywhere, Helping Refugees Enter the American Community**, Mary Pipher
- **Strength in What Remains**, Tracy Kidder

MOVIES AND VIDEOS:

God Grew Tired of Us, 2007

Houston Refugees: Stories of Courage, An Emmy award-winning Houston PBS Special

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqJfdKlaciI#t=22>

EMM Videos:

http://www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/our_work/videos.aspx

<https://vimeo.com/131140488> Engaging Mission, Engaging Hope and access to others

OTHER

My Life as A Refugee game (UNHCR) app on iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-life-as-a-refugee/id530541420?mt=8>

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Scripture, hymns, prayers

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/refugee-sunday-worship-resources>

Sermons That Work

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/?s=refugees>

Lesson Plans That Work <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/>

Epiphany Resources <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/fr/node/198935>

Bulletin Inserts <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2015/06/01/bulletin-insert-fourth-sunday-after-pentecost-b/>