



## PRAYING FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

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**“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” *Mat 24:37-39 NIV***

“Human extremity is God’s opportunity,” and at times like these displaced people are more spiritually aware as they are uprooted, cry to God for help, ask questions about their inherited faith and ask for answers.

Churches across the region have made a sometimes painful journey, from resentment of overwhelming numbers of incomers, to recognition that God is at work in these movements, to response to people’s physical and especially spiritual needs.

### Let’s pray for

- refugees who have been received into reception camps run by the UNHCR, Red Cross and other donor agencies who are responding to the needs of over 3.5 million registered refugees.
- those reaching out to traumatised people, over 75% of whom are children, to have unity and integrity in their work.
- the uncounted number living where they can in receiving nations.
- Many churches are giving food and aid in the name of Christ, and have started schools in their premises to help children excluded from local systems.
- against compassion fatigue as Church teams, agencies and leaders take opportunities to share Christ.
- wisdom for Christians and Churches giving aid. One of our colleagues writes: “Distributing aid is fraught with difficulties. We want to maintain a good witness whilst recognising our limitations; to commend the Gospel by our service; and to take every opportunity to bear witness to Jesus Christ without there being any hint or confusion that our service is conditional on a response to the Gospel.”
- for Governments as the influx is putting enormous strain on country infrastructures. Provision of water, power, education and healthcare are especially affected.
- against hopelessness and boredom in refugee camps. Rivalries and in-fighting have to be dealt with regularly by administrators.

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