



The Lord started ministering to us about biblical care for refugees while we lived in Kenya.



These Sudanese and Somali kids lived in Dadaab – the 2nd largest refugee camp on the continent of Africa.

What is “REFUGE?”

According to the “prophesies” for RF, we would be a place that represents

- **shelter**
- **protection**
- **safe haven**
- **security**
- **asylum**
- **port in a storm**
- **ark**
- **hiding place**

preservation for *the NATIONS*.

***Is providing refuge for refugees only a political issue or
a biblical one also?***

- ***What sources do you use to make this decision and are they free of “confirmation bias?”***

Statics show that only 12% of American Churches have ever listened to a biblically-based message on refugees.

- ***Do we know what perimeters legally establish who is a refugee?***
- ***Does their legal status of presence in the United States determine how we treat them in our attitudes and actions?***

References to refugees/strangers are woven throughout the Bible.

OT

- **Narrative:** Genesis, Exodus
- **Law:** Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Numbers
- **Prophecy:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, Zechariah
- **Poetry:** Psalms, Job
- **History:** Chronicles, Ruth

NT

- **Gospels:** Mathew, Luke
- **Letters:** Hebrews, Romans, 3 John, 1 Peter, Galatians
- **Revelations**

**“WHEN A FOREIGNER RESIDES AMONG YOU IN YOUR LAND, DO NOT MISTREAT THEM. THE FOREIGNER RESIDING AMONG YOU MUST BE TREATED AS YOUR NATIVE-BORN. LOVE THEM AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU WERE FOREIGNERS IN EGYPT. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD”
(LEV. 19:33-34).**

**“HE DEFENDS THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW, AND LOVES THE FOREIGNER RESIDING AMONG YOU, GIVING THEM FOOD AND CLOTHING. AND YOU ARE TO LOVE THOSE WHO ARE FOREIGNERS, FOR YOU YOURSELVES WERE FOREIGNERS IN EGYPT”
(DEUT. 10:18-19).**

**“DO NOT OPPRESS THE WIDOW OR THE FATHERLESS, THE FOREIGNER OR THE POOR. DO NOT PLOT EVIL AGAINST EACH OTHER”
(ZECH. 7:10).**

**“SO I WILL COME TO PUT YOU ON TRIAL. I WILL BE QUICK TO TESTIFY AGAINST SORCERERS, ADULTERERS AND PERJURERS, AGAINST THOSE WHO DEFRAUD LABORERS OF THEIR WAGES, WHO OPPRESS THE WIDOWS AND THE FATHERLESS, AND DEPRIVE THE FOREIGNERS AMONG YOU OF JUSTICE, BUT DO NOT FEAR ME,”
SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY
(MAL. 3:5).**

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

(Matthew 25:35)

“Keep on loving each other Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! ... Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.”

(Hebrews 13:1-3)

“Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. ⁶ They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God”

(3 John 5-6).

Read about the Bible characters through a refugee lens

Abraham: *Obeyed God's call to migrate. How did Abraham cross borders? What did he do with his wife? Why did he do that and what did he get out of it?*

Journey of Israelites: *Israel has status as strangers in a land not their own. How did the Pharaoh who didn't know Joseph govern the Israelites? How did Israel leave Egypt? How did the Moabites treat Israel?*

Ruth: *as a Moabite foreigner, she comes to Israel and she introduces herself as an illegal alien to Boaz.*

Jesus: *Why did His family flee to Egypt?*

USA's Legal Definitions

Refugee:

- Someone who located outside of the United States.
- Is of special humanitarian concern to the United States, identified by the United Nations High Commission of Refugees.
- ***Demonstrates that he/she was severely persecuted and has substantial fear of future persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.***

Asylum Seeker:

- Someone who journeys directly to the USA to seek “safe haven” or protection.
- ***That person has to prove by credible evidence before an Immigration Judge that he/she has suffered severe persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group and has a substantial fear of future persecution.***

How does God want us to “welcome refugees?”

BE A FRIEND

With knowledge and wisdom that's filtered through the Holy Spirit:

- Help provide basic needs.
- Offer opportunities to establish emotional balance through counseling.
- Offer opportunities to receive answers for spiritual hunger.
- Offer opportunities for assistance on their immigration journey toward legal status.
- Help them become sustainable, contributing members of community.

Cautions

In the years we worked with international development, the biggest problems we've seen comes from our human condition of pride and control. We will never escape it on this side of heaven, so learning to deal with it like God intends would be beneficial for ministry to refugees as a place of refuge.

- We are not the Savior.
- Always treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Listen well and evaluate our actions and attitudes often.
- Implement necessary changes to how we approach problems without becoming offended.
- Pray without ceasing.



James Küön Dëng was a child refugee from Sudan who participated in the school we ministered at in Kenya. He received support and sponsorship to become a lab technician. He is just one of many who are giving back.

The mission field is at our border. It's in detention centers holding asylum seekers. It's in our neighbors who may or may not be documented to be in the USA. Immigrants, regardless of how they got here, are fields ripe for a harvest in God's kingdom.

What is stopping us from laboring in this field?