

The Daily Life

— By *Jeanette Lukasse*

“I am a refugee and I received help. Now I want to help the children that had to flee.” Malik talks with great enthusiastic gestures. He opens his arms wide to show how many children he would like to help. He was a college student before he became a refugee. “God changed my life and gave it a new direction. My dream is now to start a school, here in the camp, where the truth of God can flow as a river, saving and healing.”

Malik was one of the students in the seminar we gave during our trip to Iraq last month. Just like the other 24 students, Malik was an IDP (Internally Displaced Person)—someone who had to flee from his home but who had stayed within the borders of his own country.

200,000 Christians had to flee

In Iraq there are now about 3 million internally displaced people, including more than 200,000 Christians who had to escape from the shocking brutality of the Islamic State (ISIS). Most of these Christians lived in the province of Nineveh and escaped to the province of Kurdistan, the most northern part of Iraq.

Teaching about child development and trauma counseling

Our students were all currently living in refugee camps and had started childcare and informal education programs for the kids in those camps. Most of them did not have a background in education, as they had interrupted their schooling in other areas like medicine, law, architecture or engineering. They were so happy and thankful for the training in child development and helping children deal with the trauma. They participated with great dedication.

Inside a camp (adapted empty building) for Christians

Our lecture hall was on the fifth floor of a big, unfinished, apartment building that the local church had transformed into a space where 150 displaced Christian families could live. On the lower floors they used plastic panels to create one room for each family. At the end of each hallway were sets of showers and toilets and a shared kitchen facility. After the week of lectures, the students were able to put what they had learned into practice by inviting all the kids, more than 80 of them, between six and 12 years old living in the building up for camp.

“Jesus came!”

Hani told us with tears in his eyes about his small group. Like the other students, he was leading his group of four through a little Arabic booklet designed to help

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IN FOCUS



The Landis Family

Jesus Was a Refugee

— By *Amy Wilson, Editor*

As we all begin our New Year and consider all that the children in our world are experiencing, it is often hard to remember that our own dear Lord and Savior experienced many of these same things Himself. These similar experiences allows Him to know us more intimately and to enter into our pain because of His own first hand

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kids with their traumas. He saw that the boy next to him had written a name on the page where children are asked who they lost during the conflict. And then the boy started to cry quietly. "Do you want to talk about it?" Hani asked, as he leaned over to the boy. The boy nodded, "Yes ... it was my father who was beheaded ..." he whispered with a broken voice. Hani felt shocked. His own brother also had been killed by ISIS when he had to flee from Mosul. He still had great difficulty dealing with that loss. How would he be able to help this young teenager deal with the loss of his father?

Suddenly he remembered our lecture from the week before. He did not have to be strong for the boy. Even when he was still in pain himself, the Lord Jesus could comfort both him and the boy in their weakness and pain! "Shall we pray together?" Hani asked, grabbing the boy's hand. He felt a bit insecure, as he had never done anything like that before. "Yes," the boy nodded, he would really like that. "And Jesus came!" Hani told us with shining eyes. "We felt very sad and surrounded by darkness, but suddenly the light broke through and it felt as if Jesus took our burdens literally on himself, and we experienced a very deep peace!"

They all want to go to Europe

According to the leaders of the local Christian churches, all of the more than 200,000 internally displaced Christians would prefer to flee to Europe, but they have not gone yet because they still have family members in areas occupied by ISIS, or they simply don't have money to pay those who smuggle people. Most who have made it to Europe were the richer refugees who had some sort of luck. Those remaining are still waiting for their chance. ■



About the Author

Jeannette Lukasse, along with husband Johan, have been missionaries since 1980 with Youth with a Mission. They are both from Holland, but since 1984 they have lived and worked in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, among children in need. The Lukasse's started out working with street children, but later extended that to children in all kinds of difficult life situations.

In collaboration with the University of the Nations, the Lukasse's have developed a quarterly training for young people who want to learn to work with children in need called the Children at Risk School. Their ministries have multiplied over the years to other cities and other countries, especially by the students of the Children at Risk School. They run this school or teach lessons from this school in many countries, like India, Haiti, Iraq, Kurdistan, South Africa, etc. If you would like to receive a pdf copy of their booklet to use with refugee children, please email Jeannette at jlukasse@gmail.com.

IN FOCUS

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experiences. Dear friends of CCTI, Jesse and Kay Landis, missionaries to children with Go to Nations, recently shared these words with their partners. Have you ever considered that

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"Jesus was a refugee?"

You may have never thought of this before, but if you read Matthew 2:13-18 (just after our beloved Christmas story) we see Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus fleeing for their lives to a foreign country, Egypt. Meanwhile back in Bethlehem there is a massacre of innocent children under two years old by an evil, power-hungry king.

Thank God for a safe country for the holy family to flee to! I wonder what it was like for them there, where they didn't know the language and lived as outsiders without rights. I am amazed at how Father God can connect to so many of our struggles in such a personal way. God Himself was a refugee. He knows their struggles. He sees them. He cares for them. He loves them. He was born their humble king and gave His precious blood for them."

If you would like to learn more of Jesse and Kay Landis and their ministry to children at **Go to Nations**, we invite you to contact them jlandis@sonshinecenter.org.

As we focus this issue upon the plight of the refugees, may God use these words to better inform us. May God help us to know how to focus our hearts and minds in prayer for the refugees, and if so led, to use our hands and feet as God directs to share His love with them. On behalf of all of us at CCTI, may God Bless you and your family in 2016! ■

Where is the Concern?

— By Patrick Jensen

Around the middle of 2011, the conflicts which began in Tunisia began to move into Syria. As protests became violent, affluent elements of society from Aleppo, 120 kilometers to the North, began moving to the Turkish industrial city of Gaziantep. For the first time since we came here in 2005, we saw Syrian license plates and Arabic script on shops.

These newcomers had money, did not know the culture or, in many instances, the language, and landowners within three months nearly doubled rents and real estate prices. As the conflict in Syria turned into a bloody civil war, poorer Syrians began to flood into the city: Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and others. They had no money, no belongings and no friends or relatives in the city to help.

Some found work while living in abandoned buildings, parks or any place with shelter. The battle for Aleppo began. Large numbers of very poor refugees streamed into the city, filling every livable space around the small Protestant church facility where we serve. Friends, acquaintances and others contacted us wanting to send teams, finances or supplies to help.

Although we resisted at first, we came to understand our unique position to help our neighbors and began helping the poorest Syrian street kids near the church. A friend from another country asked us to help a young Syrian couple who just moved to Gaziantep. The man was a new Christian and his wife soon thereafter believed in Jesus Christ, the nucleus of the Arabic church in Gaziantep.

Different groups, churches, teams and individuals began helping these desperate people. Giving foam beds, blankets, food, coal for heating, gas stoves, etc. opened hearts . . . and caused some problems. Neighbors were becoming uncomfortable with the constant flow of Syrian men, women and children coming to the church, so now we go directly to homes where we can meet and build relationship with the families.

Though the path is dangerous, Syrians want to leave their homeland in hopes of a better living standard in Europe or the West. Those who fear the consequences send their children and



About the Author

Patrick Jensen was born in 1962 in Oakland, California. He completed his degree in Computer Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1985 following which he worked as a programmer for Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation, Sunnyvale, California. Being born again in Jesus Christ in March, 1986, he began to pray about God's will for his life. Having met Turks for the first time and while praying for the future, Patrick received a vision from God that the Turks embracing Christianity would bring the Muslim world back to Christ. Since 1999, with his wife Soonja, three children, Joseph (16), Kayra (12) and Ilyas (10), he has been joyfully serving God in the nation of Turkey.

young men to work long hours with low wages in factories, construction or other non-professional trades. Mothers work in restaurants or offices; daughters are given in marriage to Turks—Turks are given money from the government when they marry a Syrian—or enter a darker world.

Along with thousands of internationals, now ISIS, Kurds, and Turks make Gaziantep a transitional hub between the Middle East and the eastern borders of Europe. A few days ago we met a young family who had come to Gaziantep two months before. Attempting to cross the Aegean to Greece, their less-than-sea-worthy boat sank, and most of those on board drowned. Crying out to Jesus for help, the father, mother and two young children miraculously survived.

Every week we meet those who have very recently come to Gaziantep from Syria. One school began out of the church, and now we have two more with around 225 students. These schools provide education for a small percentage of the estimated 250,000 school-aged children who have not been in school for more than four years. Syrian coalition schools provide some education with limited class time and large class size.

Black-clad, fully-covered women are now commonplace in this once culturally Islamic city. Begging is not allowed and refugees cannot stay in parks, condemned buildings or open spaces. They must rent a house and work to pay rent, which is difficult but a healthy approach. Syrians can now obtain a work permit which is a step towards normalizing life in Turkey. The Turkish government provides some food and medical care. Most locals look with acceptance, but they are not positive about this large influx of semi-foreigners.

Is this a tragedy? A time to find God? A time for real neighbors? A time to find the eternal? Likely all of these, but it is not a time for complex solutions. "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them" (James 4:17 NIV). As has been true since the early days of the Church, "don't look at the clouds or the storm, sow!" ■

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES



Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice

My Birthday Gift

—By Emsley Coats

“The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers in to His harvest” Matthew 9:37-38. This is a verse that has opened my heart to want to help people. One way I like to help people is through the charity Samaritan's Purse.

On my birthday, October 20, I asked for money for Samaritan's Purse instead of presents. Little did we know the success that lay ahead. A \$100 donation was made for my birthday and two boys were sent to school. It was a huge success! Also every year we have a lemonade stand to raise money. Although last year we had a craft sale instead. The money we get from the sale goes to Samaritan's Purse.

Samaritan's Purse is wonderful! It provides a lot of options to help people. You can choose to spend money on things like baby chicks, feeding a baby for a week, sending kids to school, a goat for a family, and so much more. It's like picking out a Christmas present. It's fun and it's helping people out a lot. For example, if you bought chicks for a family the chicks will grow up and have chicks which can provide meat and eggs. The family can also share the chicks with neighbors. Samaritan's Purse is a great charity! ■



About the Author

*Emsley is a wonderful 8 year old daughter who loves being a big sister to her twin 1 ½ year old sisters.
She is full of love for her family and has such a tender heart.
Her desire to help others in need is inspiring.*

The Refugee Crisis and the Children

—By Barbara Ruegger

Most of us have probably seen the picture of little Aylan, laying dead on a beach in Turkey because he and his family tried to escape the horrors of their home town in Syria and find safety in Europe. Little Aylan became famous but he is only one of many children who have died before him and since then, trying to escape a terrible war. In a city in Germany is a group of 40 Jesidi refugees only comprised of women and smaller children. One might ask why did these women come without their husbands. The reason for it: The IS killed all the men and boys over the age of 10. In a friends newsletter I read about a teenage boy, now in a refugee camp in Asia, who had witnessed the beheading of his own father.

Sitting in a safe place while writing these articles, I cannot even start to grasp the terror and the trauma this children might have experienced before they reached a supposedly safe place in Europe. In the last several weeks and months the newspapers in Europe flooded its readers with pictures of refugees walking, arriving in boats, crossing borders, taking trains and buses all across the different European countries. There is hardly a picture without children, they are everywhere, crying, walking, hungry, wet and tired. They do not understand why they have to continue to travel, why they cannot sleep in a bed again, surrounded by their family and their toys in the house they used to own.

After the death of little Aylan, an artist drew a picture of a little crib with Aylan sleeping in it. The caption says: “That’s how it is supposed to be. Not just for little Aylan, but for all the children on the run across countries or living in tents and houses in overflowing camps.” Maybe you might say, “I know all that, so what does this all have to do with me? Can we really leave it to the governments to find a solution?”

But then, if I turn to the one who has been a refugee himself when he was just a little kid, the one who was born in an overcrowded place where his parents did not find a safe space but had to make his bed in a manger, if I do so, I see the one who said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them.” He also helps us not to listen to the governments and their arguments, not to succumb to fear of terrorism, because His love has overcome all fear, but to do what He says in His word. We are challenged to love the refugee children and their parents, because they too are our neighbors. If we have no refugees in our city and cannot show our love and care in person, we can pray for them, we can give to organizations who are actively involved in helping them and we need to speak out on behalf of those who have no voices. I do believe that what we are experiencing now is not just a challenge for governments, it is a challenge for the churches and we will be measured on how we respond to it today. ■



About the Author

Barbara Ruegger, single from Switzerland, is a trained nurse, holds a MA in Holistic Child Development (HCD), and is presently a Scholar for a PhD in HCD. She has worked in children’s ministry for the past 25 years, as a children’s pastor and in a children’s home in Switzerland and with children in the streets and slums in India. Barbara is a trainer and coach for people who minister to children and for that purpose travels worldwide. She has a big heart for children at risk, especially for those who have to live away from their parents.



Nearly 12 million Syrians have been displaced by the fighting—at least 7.6 million within Syria, and more than 4 million as refugees in neighboring countries.

Facts & Prayers for Refugees and Displaced Children

Islamic State militants are selling abducted Iraqi children in markets as sex slaves. Many of them are also being used as soldiers, suicide bombers, bomb makers and informants or as human shields.

Between 2.1 and 2.4 million school-age children are not attending school. In Syria, 5,000 to 14,000 schools have been damaged, destroyed or occupied since 2011. The decline in education for Syrian children has been the sharpest and most rapid in the history of the region, according to UNICEF.

The year 2015 has seen *record numbers of refugees* attempting to cross into Europe by sea. Over *21,000 have arrived* in Italy, and at least *1,720 refugees* have drowned at sea trying to reach European shores. There are also many displaced families within the country of Syria that are unable to flee and are living under desperate conditions.



“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 ESV

See page eight to access the prayer card for Refugee Children



We Are the Apple of His Eye!

—By *Valerie Downs*

Recently I saw these words on a paper that caught my attention: “I am the apple of His eye.” Immediately I began to wonder why the word “apple” is used in this expression that is repeated in different contexts in scripture (Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalm 17:8; Proverbs 7:2; Zechariah 2:8). I discovered that the Hebrew words **iyshown** (pronounced **eeshone**) and **babah** means “pupil of the eye, the delicate part of the eye essential for vision and therefore must be protected at all cost.” A more literal translation of the Hebrew is actually “little man of his eye,” which probably refers to the reflection of oneself that one sees in the eye of another person. Therefore “apple of His eye” refers to the image of oneself in the eyes of God versus in the eye of others. **Wow!**

The pupil is a hole located in the center of the iris of the eye that allows light to strike the retina. In ancient times, the pupil was believed to be a round, solid object comparable to an apple. Since the pupil is essential to vision, it was held to be something very precious. Thus, when you call someone the “apple of your eye,” you are telling them that they are cherished. Now let’s check out those verses to see what treasures lie hidden for us to discover.

*“He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil [apple] of His eye.
(Deuteronomy 32:10 NASB)*

*Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.
(Psalm 17:8 NASB)*

*Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye..
(Proverbs 7:2 NASB)*

*For thus says the LORD of hosts, “After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye..
(Zechariah 2:8 NASB)*

It is essential that we see ourselves as our heavenly Father sees us in Christ, knowing that we are cherished by Him. I suggest that you and I not only read these verses but also cry out to Him for revelation and insight, welcoming life changing encounters with the One who sees, knows and cherishes us. When He looks at us He likes what He sees. **Wow!** ■

About the Author

Valerie grew up in Ohio and graduated from Cleveland State University in 1987. She worked 5 years as a physical therapist in a hospital and skilled nursing facility in rehabilitation.

During that time she learned about the unreached people groups of the world where there are no churches and often no believers.

The Lord then confirmed His calling to join a team focused on church planting among Tibetans of West China, where she lived, studied Tibetan & Chinese, and worked among the Nomadic people for 21 years, from 1993-2014.

Always it was the children she was drawn to, especially the orphans and poor. She is now living in Charlotte, NC with her elderly mother & niece while involved as a new staff worker at CCTI.



Making it easier to
bring healing and
hope to children
in crisis


Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

NEWS
EVENTS
RESOURCES



for more ways to pray for refugees?



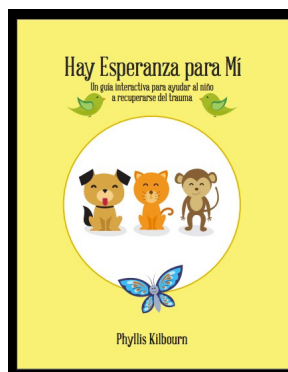
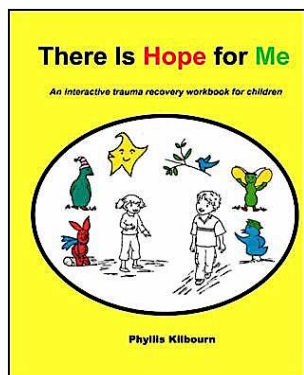
Please  to our website (www.crisiscaretraining.org),

scroll  to the right side of the front page and click on

"Prayer for Refugees"  the Prayer for Children subtitle.

If you, or anyone you know, are looking for resources to use, don't forget our free handbook entitled *"There Is Hope For Me"*.

The **FREE** handbook and instructor's manual are available in *English, Spanish and Arabic* from our *Resource Page* on the website



For Information On:

• **CCTI Curriculum—**

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