

Encourage
Enrich
Equip



THE BARNABAS

2021

**Crisis Care
Training International**

A Ministry of

WEC International

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TABLE OF CONTENT

COVER //1

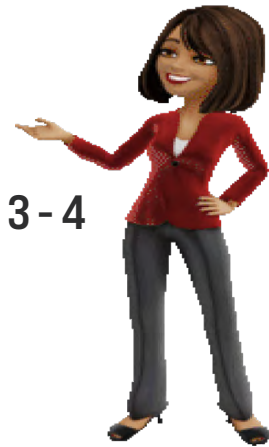
IN FOCUS //2

CALL TO ACTION FOR REFUGEES //3-4

GOD IS NEVER LATE //5-6

CHILD REFUGEES //7-8

RESOURCES //9



In Focus

As we all know, correct and accurate statistics are often hard to get precise due to many factors. As we have all seen with the pandemic numbers over the last year, the numbers are continually changing.

However, at press time, UNHCR (the UN's Refugee Agency) reports 79.5 million refugees (many other organizations have similar estimations). The World Health Organization is reporting 93.8 million COVID-19 cases to date. We know that the number of refugees is continuously rising, as are the current numbers with COVID-19. However, with the virus, there is hope of the numbers declining significantly with vaccines' development.

What is the hope for the number of refugees declining?

The answer...the church!

We, as believers, are being called to reach out and help in varying capacities. Please read the following articles for ideas and ways that you may be involved. We also ask that you pray and seek God for how He wants you to respond. We hope that this Barnabas Letter issue brings you the encouragement, enrichment, and equipping you need to respond!

***Serving Him Together,
Amy Wilson, Director of Education***



CALL TO ACTION FOR CHILD REFUGEES

***How can we, the church, reach out to the increasing number of refugees?
Read the attached for your call to action!***

In Leviticus 19:34 it states, "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."

And yet, the church struggles to know what to do! They don't know how to relate. They don't know how to care for them. They don't understand that they come with cultural differences, cultural needs, cultural losses and that they simply need God's divine grace and love shown through friendship.

This is the word to describe it all: friendship. What does a friend do? They love you. They support you. They walk alongside you during the good and the bad times. Friends listen and they care.



Many of the refugees we have worked within the last three years here in Sao Paulo, Brazil have run for their lives. Some have escaped persecution. Some are married and have children without their extended families back home knowing any of these details, all for the sake of turning to Jesus. Others are running to save their lives because there is no food to be bought. There are no jobs to provide money for that food. Medical care is limited, if not non-existent.

***So, if God is urging us to treat the foreigner, the refugee,
as a native, what does that mean?***

It means to treat them like **"one of us"** but in saying that we also need to realize that it is the same as making friends. You get to know them. You understand their background. You ask questions. You are interested in their life and what they like to do for fun. This may all sound so simple and not spiritual. But to be honest, it is! It is spiritual because we are being like Jesus to them. We are eating with them at our table. We are meeting their needs when we are able. We walk with them in the garden and ask questions.

Continued...

CALL TO ACTION FOR CHILD REFUGEES

...continued

In 2021, we are even more challenged to this call as the numbers of refugees have increased. They are entering country after country that is not theirs and they are all in need of friendship. COVID-19 has taken some of that away from us due to distancing and isolation, but we are so thankful for the internet, WhatsApp, iMessage, any virtual tools we can use to further God's kingdom. We keep in communication with them, check on them, we ask how they are coping, and simply maintain our friendship with these amazing and resilient people.

My call to you, God's representatives here on earth, is to open your eyes and look around.

Who is the foreigner among you? Who needs to be a recipient of your friendship? And whose friendship could bless your life? How can you "BE" Jesus to those who are probably in your country not because they chose to but because they were forced? How can you help them feel, native-born? God is indeed at work, and if we choose to, we can be His vessels of amazing friendship that mimics Jesus!

Pray for these people to see and want Jesus!

Pray for their families who are left behind!

Pray for the local church to wake up and extend Jesus' friendship to the foreigner!

And pray that we might be advocates, friends, and representatives of Christ to those who are in our country and desire to be seen as "native-born"!!

Biography:



Jennifer has served with her husband, Ron, both in Medellin, Colombia and Sao Paulo, Brazil for the past 22 years.

They have worked in the social area, rescuing street boys and girls, campaigning for those who have been trafficked, and helping families who have crossed border or seas to find refuge in another country. They have four children, and their passion is to see their children serve the Lord! Jennifer enjoys doing Macrame and quilting.

Jennifer's dream is to do Faith Based Equine Assisted work with children who have gone through trauma both physically and emotionally, bringing them the love of Jesus.

God Is Never Late

Missionaries are finding creative ways to minister to refugees during this time of pandemic. Read and find out how God is providing!

"Could you use computers for your ESL students?" a man asked me after I finished speaking at a men's breakfast at our church. I thought for a minute. I couldn't imagine many of our students, all newcomers to Canada, using them any time soon but maybe sometime in the future they would need them?

"Sure, that would be great," I replied.



We arranged to get a computer delivered to each of our students' families - many refugees having escaped places like Burundi, Syria, and Eritrea.

But then COVIC-19 Happened

Within a few weeks of delivering the computers, COVID hit Canada and everything shut down, including our ESL center. The computers, that seemed like an extra just a few weeks before, now were a huge necessity. One week later, with everything shut down and students being told to "stay in place," our center was back running six ESL classes daily. But this time it looked different - with the use of the new computers, we could start online.

God's timing and provision were incredible.

"A lot changed so quickly," explained Fatima, one of our students. "We stayed at home. It made me scared, and it was so hard for the children. We live in an apartment and, if the boys started playing a bit loudly, the neighbor below me would knock on the door and say he was going to call the police."

But despite her fears, she still managed to find things to help her kids.

"Sometimes I would buy treats for the kids, and we would drive to the beach and sit in the car and eat... just to get them out of the house and do something special with them."

Despite the many unknowns, Halima, another ESL student, shared, "It was very hard, my children just ate and watched movies, but we also did things together as a family... that part was special."



Continued...

God Is Never Late

...continued

For many of our students, their class time was the only normalcy they had each day. During this time, we as a staff continued to pray for God-sized ideas of ways to connect and encourage our students. Drive-by birthdays, videos from our volunteers, and being a listening ear for them as they struggled were some of the ways we continued to be a light to them.

One day, while praying for another way to connect during the Easter season, I received a phone call. The person on the other line said, "I feel like God wanted me to call and ask if your students would like Easter Lilies?" I smiled again at God's timing.

A week later, on the Easter weekend, we delivered not only 20 Easter Lilies to our students' houses but also gave them each the beautiful book called "A Radical Love Story" in their own language that shares His perfect gift.

Yes, God is never later but always on time.

Biography:

Due to the people group that these missionaries work with, their identity is anonymous. However, they wanted to share the following: "In 2015, we came back from overseas for a summer holiday. Canadians learned of what was happening in Syria and people in our small hockey town began sponsoring refugees. God led us to stay in Canada where we opened up an ESL center. Currently, we have over 10 countries represented, and God is working in amazing ways! Thank you for your prayers!"



**Crisis Care
Training International**

Child Refugees

Welcomed Alien

By Maggie

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me in..." (Matthew 25:35).

Though Christmas has passed, the Story has just begun. Soon after Jesus birth, his family had to flee – they were refugees, their flight was to Egypt – a foreign country, nationality, language, all very different and unfamiliar.

Jesus' story is similar to refugees today, most of whom are fleeing persecution, even death. Compared to many children today, however, Jesus had safety and security in several forms. As a baby, Jesus' whole world was in the security of his mother's arms. Both he and his mother felt the protection of Joseph, a husband and father, to lead the way and keep them safe.

Safety and security are two basic needs of children everywhere.

Those who have grown past babyhood know the security of their families and homes. When they are torn away, safety and security are gone and children suffer various types of trauma. Being a refugee always involves trauma.

In 2016*, children made up half of the refugee population.

Some characteristics of child refugees from diverse countries remain the same: exposure to violence, tiresome travel, large levels of fears and trauma, separation from homes and sometimes families, language barriers, and disrupted education.

Knowing their background situations helps us to plan solutions to assist children and their families in relocation, integration, and restoration of fearful, hurting hearts.

Children who are with their families, or primary caregiver, and experience love and needed security usually have the most successful adjustment. However, they still have a variety of needs. Parents working to win the trust of their children is crucial to their involvement with them. Families may need provisions to set up their homes. We can share in providing this with more than the basics, with welcoming baskets of food, toys and child bedding for the children. Assisting with language and education are essential to full integration. Here is where believers have opportunities to teach or provide materials children need for learning; coaching parents in language and ways of our culture all build trusting relationships with the new family. We can open our church buildings to be centers for a variety of services, including education, health or recreation. As we do so, we show care and share the love of Jesus to a child and his family.



Continued...

Child Refugees

...continued

Welcomed Alien

Inclusion and integration with local families and children is another “key” to building a positive future for refugee children. We can do this by inviting the newly arrived family to our home, fellowship groups, and community activities. Another meaningful way individuals can help refugees is by assisting them to get health care, including dental. Many come exhausted, malnourished, ill and maybe never having seen a dentist. We can help them locate the local health centers, provide transportation, and possibly find locals to set up health or dental camps. The programs we set up must be varied to meet diverse needs. Working together with community leaders and others increases capacity as each can use their expertise.

If the refugees are in our care, we cannot neglect the traumas that have led to fears, psychological, mental, emotional, psychosocial problems, or the stresses of integrating into an unfamiliar society. We can get some training to recognize and identify symptoms and then find the resources needed for restoration.

These areas may seem difficult and we may not know where to begin. We cannot help what we do not understand, so do learn all you can about refugees and asylum seekers. However, giving compassionate care comes from the inside-out. If we desire to serve the strangers among us, we need to do so with sensitivity – listening to them and learning their individual stories. Children are often very resilient and as we show openness, interest and genuine love in coming alongside them it is so rewarding to see them bloom - now planted into new soil.

*UNHCR Global Trends: forced displacement, 2016

Maggie is a missionary to India. She asks that we pray for the many believers who are now being persecuted within this country and for strength and peace for all those serving there.





BRAND NEW!

Module 7:

**Restoring Hope
to Children with Disabilities**
April 5, 2021

**Please contact Denise by March 19th,
at denise@ccti-wec.org before all
spaces are filled.**

Websites:

<https://worldrelief.org>

World Refugee Day,
June, 20, 2021

[https://sdg.iisd.org/events/
world-refugee-day-2021/](https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-refugee-day-2021/)

Videos:

Refugee Children Becoming
Adult Leaders to Other Refugee
Children

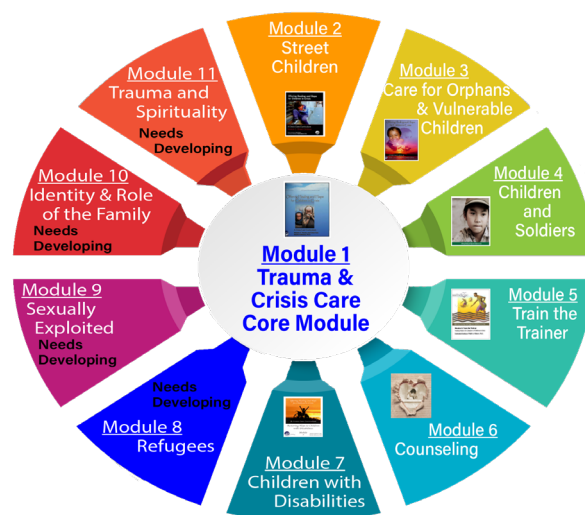
[https://www.unhcr.org/en-
us/news/stories/2020/10/5f8035a84/
rohingya-refugee-children-
learn-support.html](https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2020/10/5f8035a84/rohingya-refugee-children-learn-support.html)

How Lebanon Church Is Reaching
Out to Refugees

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=mwZOTMI7MM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwZOTMI7MM)



CCTI Curriculums



Books:

CCTI's Healing the Children of War
[https://crisiscaretraining.org/product/
healing-children-war-handbook-minis-
try-children-suffered-deep-traumas/](https://crisiscaretraining.org/product/healing-children-war-handbook-ministry-children-suffered-deep-traumas/)

Shores of the Global Refugee Crisis by
Stephan Bauman, Matthew Soerens and
Dr Issam Smeir

[https://www.moodypublishers.com/
seeking-refuge/](https://www.moodypublishers.com/seeking-refuge/)

Strangers in the Kingdom: Ministering to
Refugees, Migrants, and the Stateless by
Rupen Das and Brent Hamoud

[https://www.christianbook.com/
strangers-kingdom-ministering-
refugees-migrants-stateless/rupen-
das/9781783682775/pd/682775](https://www.christianbook.com/strangers-kingdom-ministering-refugees-migrants-stateless/rupen-das/9781783682775/pd/682775)